Mrs Fish

PRAYERS

AND

MEDITATIONS,

COMPOSED BY

SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL. D.

AND

PUBLISHED FROM HIS MANUSCRIPTS,

By GEORGE STRAHAN, A. M.

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PREFACE.

THESE Poſthumous Devotions of Dr. Johnſon will be, no doubt, welcomed by the public, with a diſtinction ſimilar to that which has been already paid to his other Works.

During many years of his life, he ſtatedly obſerved certain days * with a religious ſolemnity; on which, and other occaſions, it was his cuſtom to compoſe ſuitable Prayers and Meditations; committing them to writing

* Viz. New Year's Day; March 28, the day on which his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnſon, died; Good Friday; Eaſter Day; and September the 18th, his own birth-day.

for his own uſe, and, as he aſſured me, without any view to their publication. But being laſt ſummer on a viſit at Oxford to the Reverend Dr. Adams *, and that Gentleman urging him repeatedly to engage in ſome work of this kind, he then firſt conceived a deſign to reviſe theſe pious effuſions, and bequeath them, with enlargements, to the uſe and benefit of others.

Infirmities, however, now growing faſt upon him, he at length changed this deſign, and determined

* Maſter of Pembroke College, at which Dr. Johnſon received part of his education.

to give the Manuſcripts, without reviſion, in charge to me, as I had long ſhared his intimacy, and was at this time his daily attendant. Accordingly, one morning, on my viſiting him by deſire at an early hour, he put theſe Papers into my hands, with inſtructions for committing them to the Preſs, and with a promiſe to prepare a ſketch of his own life to accompany them. But the performance of this promiſe alſo was prevented, partly by his haſty deſtruction of ſome private memoirs, which he afterwards lamented, and partly by that incurable ſickneſs, which ſoon ended in his diſſolution.

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As a Biographer, he is allowed to have excelled without a rival; and we may juſtly regret, that he who had ſo advantageouſly tranſmitted to poſterity the lives of other eminent men, ſhould have been thus intercepted in conſtructing the narrative of his own. But the particulars of this venerable man's perſonal hiſtory may ſtill, in great meaſure, be preſerved; and the Public are authoriſed to expect them from ſome of his many friends, who are zealous to augment the monument of his fame by the detail of his private virtues.

That

That the authenticity of this work may never be called in queſtion, the original manuſcript will be depoſited in the library of Pembroke College in Oxford. Dr. Bray's aſſociates are to receive the profits of the Firſt Edition, by the Author's appointment; and any further advantages that accrue, will be diſtributed among his relations.

I have now diſcharged the truſt repoſed in me by that Friend, whoſe labours entitle him to laſting gratitude and veneration from the Literary, and ſtill more from the Chriſtian world. His Lives of the Engliſh

liſh Poets *are written*, as he juſtly hopes *, *in ſuch a manner as may tend to the promotion of Piety*. This merit may be aſcribed, with equal truth, to moſt of his other works; and doubtleſs to his Sermons, none of which indeed have yet been made public, nor is it known where they are extant; though it be certain, from his own acknowledgment, both in converſation and writing †, that he compoſed many. As he ſeems to have turned his thoughts with peculiar earneſtneſs to the ſtudy of religious ſubjects, we may preſume theſe remains would deſerve to be

* P. 202. † P. 198.

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numbered among his happieſt productions. It is therefore hoped they have fallen into the hands of thoſe, who will not withhold them in obſcurity, but conſider them as depoſits, the ſecluſion of which from general uſe, would be an injurious diminution of their Author's fame, and retrenchment from the common ſtock of ſerious inſtruction.

But the integrity of his mind was not only ſpeculatively ſhadowed in his writings, but ſubſtantially exemplified in his life. His Prayers and his Alms, like thoſe of the good Cornelius, went up for a continual

tinual memorial; and always, from a heart deeply impreſſed with piety, never inſenſible to the calls of friendſhip and compaſſion, and prone to melt in effuſions of tenderneſs on the ſlighteſt incitement.

When among other articles in his Dictionary, Lichfield preſents itſelf to his notice, he ſalutes that place of his nativity in theſe words of Virgil, *Salve, magne parens.* Nor was the ſalutation adopted without reaſon: for well might he denominate his parent city great, who, by the celebrity of his name, hath for ever made it ſo—

Salve, magna parens frugum, *Staffordia* tellus,
Magna virûm. VIRG. Georg. lib. ii. l. 173.

More

More deciſive teſtimonies of his affectionate ſenſibility are exhibited in the following work, where he bewails the ſucceſſive depredations of death on his relations and friends; whoſe virtues, thus mournfully ſuggeſted to his recollection, he ſeldom omits to recite, with ardent wiſhes for their acquittal at the throne of mercy. In praying, however, with reſtriction *, for theſe regretted tenants

* Our Author informs us, that his Prayers for deceaſed friends were offered up on ſeveral occaſions, *as far as might be lawful for him*; and once (p. 132), *with Preface of Fermiſſion:* whence it ſhould ſeem that he had ſome doubt concerning the lawfulneſs of ſuch Prayers, though it does not appear that he ever diſcontinued the uſe of them. It is alſo obſervable, that in his reflections on the death of his Wife

nants of the grave, he indeed conformed to a practice, which, though it has been retained by other learned members of our church, her Liturgy no longer admits, and many, who adhere to her communion, avowedly diſapprove. That ſuch Prayers are, or may be, efficacious, they who ſincerely offer them muſt believe. But may not a belief in

Wife (p. 192), and again of Mr. Thrale (p. 221), he wiſhes that the Almighty not *may have*, but *may have had*, mercy on them; evidently ſuppoſing their ſentence to have been already paſt in the Divine Mind. This ſuppoſition, indeed, may ſeem not very conſiſtent with his recommending them to the Divine Mercy afterwards. It proves, however, that he had no belief in a ſtate of Purgatory, and conſequently no reaſon for praying for the dead, that could impeach the ſincerity of his profeſſion as a Proteſtant.

their

their efficacy, ſo far as it prevails, be attended with danger to thoſe who entertain it? May it not incline them to careleſsneſs; and promote a neglect of repentance, by inducing a perſuaſion, that without it, pardon may be obtained through theſe vicarious interceſſions? Indeed the doctrine (I ſpeak with deference to the great names that have eſpouſed it) ſeems inconſiſtent with ſome principles generally allowed among us. If, *where the tree falleth, there it ſhall be*; if, as Proteſtants maintain, our ſtate at the cloſe of life is to be the meaſure of our final ſentence; then Prayers for the dead, being viſibly fruitleſs, can be regarded only as

as the vain oblations of ſuperſtition. But of all ſuperſtitions, this perhaps is one of the leaſt unamiable, and moſt incident to a good mind. If our ſenſations of kindneſs be intenſe, thoſe whom we have revered and loved during life, death, which removes them from ſight, cannot wholly ſeclude from our concern. The fondneſs, kindled by intercourſe, will ſtill glow from memory, and prompt us to wiſh, perhaps to pray, that the valued dead, to whoſe felicity our friendſhip can no longer miniſter, may find acceptance with Him, *who giveth us*, and them, *richly all things to enjoy*. It is true, for the reaſon juſt mentioned, ſuch evi-

evidences of our ſurviving affection may be thought ill-judged: but ſurely they are generous; and ſome natural tenderneſs is due even to a ſuperſtition, which thus originates in piety and benevolence.

We ſee our Author, in one place *, purpoſing with ſerioufneſs to remember his brother's dream; in another †, owning his embarraſſment from needleſs ſtipulations; and, on many occaſions, noting, with a circumſtantial minuteneſs, the proceſs of his religious faſt.—But theſe peculiarities, if they betray ſome tincture of the propenſity already obſerved, prove, for the moſt part, the pious tenour of his

* P. 39. † P. 185.

thoughts.

thoughts. They indicate a mind ardently zealous to pleaſe God, and anxious to evince its alacrity in his ſervice, by a ſcrupulous obſervance of more than enjoined duties.

But, however, the ſoundneſs of his principles might, in general, be apparent, he ſeems to have lived with a perpetual conviction that his conduct was defective; lamenting paſt neglects, forming purpoſes of future diligence, and conſtantly acknowledging their failure in the event. It was natural for him, who poſſeſſed ſuch powers of uſefulneſs, to conſider the waſte of his time as a peculiar delinquency; with which, however, he appears to have been far leſs frequently, and leſs culpably chargeable, than his own tender ſenſe of duty diſpoſed him to apprehend.

prehend. That he meritoriouſly redeemed many days and years from indolence, is evinced by the number and excellence of his Works; nor can we doubt that his literary exertions would have been ſtill more frequent, had not *morbid melancholy*, which, as he informs us *, was the infirmity of his life, repreſſed them. To the prevalence of this infirmity, we may certainly aſcribe that anxious fear, which ſeized him on the approach of his diſſolution, and which his friends, who knew his integrity, obſerved with equal aſtoniſhment and concern. But the ſtrength of religion at length prevailed againſt the frailty of nature; and his foreboding dread of the Divine Juſ-

* P. 167.

tice,

tice, by degrees ſubſided into a pious truſt and humble hope in the Divine Mercy.

He is now gone to await his eternal ſentence; and as his life exhibited an illuſtrious example, ſo his death ſuggeſts an intereſting admonition. It concerns us to reflect, that however many may find it impoſſible to rival his intellectual excellence, yet to imitate his virtues, is both poſſible and neceſſary to all; that the current of time now haſtens to plunge us in that gulph of death, where we have ſo lately ſeen him abſorbed, where there is no more place of repentance, and whence, according to our innocence or guilt, we ſhall riſe to an immortality of Bliſs or Torment.

GEORGE STRAHAN.

Iſlington,
Auguſt 6, 1785.

PRAYERS
AND
MEDITATIONS.

1738.

On my BIRTH-DAY.

September $\frac{7}{18}$.

O GOD, the Creator and Preſerver of all mankind, Father of all mercies, I thine unworthy ſervant do give Thee

moſt humble thanks, for all thy goodneſs and loving-kindneſs to me. I bleſs Thee for my creation, preſervation, and redemption, for the knowledge of thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. In the days of childhood and youth, in the midſt of weakneſs, blindneſs and danger, Thou haſt protected me; amidſt afflictions of mind, body and eſtate, Thou haſt ſupported me; and amidſt vanity and wickedneſs Thou haſt ſpared me. Grant, O merciful Father, that I may have a lively ſenſe of thy mercies. Create in me a contrite heart, that I may worthily lament my ſins, and acknowledge my wickedneſs, and obtain remiſſion and forgiveneſs, through the ſatisfaction of Jeſus Chriſt. And, O Lord, enable me, by thy

thy grace, to redeem the time which I have ſpent in ſloth, vanity and wickedneſs; to make uſe of thy gifts to the honour of thy name; to lead a new life in thy faith, fear and love; and finally to obtain everlaſting life. Grant this, Almighty Lord, for the merits and thro' the mediation of our moſt holy and bleſſed Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghoſt, Three Perſons and One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Tranſcribed June 26, 1768.

This is the firſt ſolemn prayer, of which I have a copy. Whether I compoſed any before this, I queſtion.

1744-5.

January 1.

ALmighty and everlasting God, in whose hands are life and death, by whose will all things were created, and by whose providence they are sustained; I return Thee thanks that Thou hast given me life, and that Thou hast continued it to this time; that Thou hast hitherto forborn to snatch me away in the midst of sin and folly, and hast permitted me still to enjoy the means of grace, and vouchsafed to call me yet again to repentance. Grant, O merciful

Lord,

Lord, that thy call may not be vain; that my life may not be continued to increaſe my guilt, and that thy gracious forbearance may not harden my heart in wickedneſs. Let me remember, O my God, that as days and years paſs over me, I approach nearer to the grave, where there is no repentance; and grant, that by the aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, I may ſo paſs through this life, that I may obtain life everlaſting, for the ſake of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

1747-8.

January 1.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt not yet ſuffered me to fall into the grave; grant that I may ſo remember my paſt life, as to repent of the days and years which I have ſpent in forgetfulneſs of thy mercy, and neglect of my own ſalvation, and ſo uſe the time which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, as that I may become every day more diligent in the duties which in thy providence ſhall be aſſigned me; and that,

when

when at laſt I ſhall be called to judgment, I may be received as a good and faithful ſervant into everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

1749-50.

January 1, after 3 in the morning.

ALmighty God, by whoſe will I was created, and by whoſe providence I have been ſuſtained, by whoſe mercy I have been called to the knowledge of my Redeemer, and by whoſe grace whatever I have thought or acted acceptable to Thee has been inſpired and directed; grant, O Lord, that in reviewing my paſt life, I may recollect thy mercies to my preſervation, in whatever ſtate thou prepareſt for me; that in affliction I may remember how often I have been ſuccoured; and

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in proſperity may know and confeſs from whoſe hand the bleſſing is received. Let me, O Lord, ſo remember my ſins, that I may aboliſh them by true repentance, and ſo improve the year to which Thou haſt graciouſly extended my life, and all the years which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, that I may hourly become purer in thy ſight; ſo that I may live in thy fear and die in thy favour, and find mercy at the laſt day, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

PRAYER on the RAMBLER.

ALmighty God, the giver of all good things, without whoſe help all labour is ineffectual, and without whoſe grace all wiſdom is folly; grant, I beſeech Thee, that in this my undertaking, thy Holy Spirit may not be withheld from me, but that I may promote thy glory, and the ſalvation both of myſelf and others; grant this, O Lord, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

1752.

Before any new STUDY.

November.

ALmighty God, in whoſe hands are all the powers of man; who giveſt underſtanding, and takeſt it away; who, as it ſeemeth good unto Thee, enlighteneſt the thoughts of the ſimple, and darkeneſt the meditations of the wiſe, be preſent with me in my ſtudies and enquiries.

Grant,

Grant, O Lord, that I may not laviſh away the life which Thou haſt given me on uſeleſs trifles, nor waſte it in vain ſearches after things which Thou haſt hidden from me.

Enable me, by thy Holy Spirit, ſo to ſhun ſloth and negligence, that every day may diſcharge part of the taſk which Thou haſt allotted me; and ſo further with thy help that labour which, without thy help, muſt be ineffectual, that I may obtain, in all my undertakings, ſuch ſucceſs as will moſt promote thy glory, and the ſalvation of my own ſoul, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

After Time negligently and unprofitably ſpent.

November 19.

O Lord, in whoſe hands are life and death, by whoſe power I am ſuſtained, and by whoſe mercy I am ſpared, look down upon me with pity. Forgive me, that I have this day neglected the duty which thou haſt aſſigned to it, and ſuffered the hours, of which I muſt give account, to paſs away without any endeavour to accompliſh thy will, or to promote my own ſalvation. Make me to remember, O God, that every day is thy gift, and ought to be uſed according

ing to thy command. Grant me therefore, ſo to repent of my negligence, that I may obtain mercy from Thee, and paſs the time which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, in diligent performance of thy commands, through Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

1753.

On EASTER DAY.

April 22.

O Lord, who giveſt the grace of repentance, and heareſt the prayers of the penitent, grant that by true contrition, I may obtain forgiveneſs of all the ſins committed, and of all duties neglected, in my union with the wife whom Thou haſt taken from me; for the neglect of joint devotion, patient exhortation, and mild inſtruction. And, O Lord, who canſt change evil to good, grant that the loſs of my wife may ſo mortify all inordinate

inordinate affections in me, that I may henceforth pleaſe Thee by holineſs of life.

And, O Lord, ſo far as it may be lawful for me, I commend to thy fatherly goodneſs the ſoul of my departed wife; beſeeching Thee to grant her whatever is beſt in her preſent ſtate, and finally to receive her to eternal happineſs. All this I beg, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, whoſe death I am now about to commemorate. To whom, &c. Amen.

This I repeated ſometimes at church.

1754.

Fl. Lacr.

March 28, in the morning.

O God, who on this day wert pleased to take from me my dear wife, sanctify to me my sorrows and reflections. Grant, that I may renew and practise the resolutions which I made when thy afflicting hand was upon me. Let the remembrance of thy judgments, by which my wife is taken away, awaken me to repentance; and the sense of thy mercy,

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by which I am ſpared, ſtrengthen my hope and confidence in Thee, that by the aſſiſtance and comfort of thy Holy Spirit, I may ſo paſs through things temporal, as finally to gain everlaſting happineſs, and to paſs, by a holy and happy death, into the joy which Thou haſt prepared for thoſe that love Thee.

Grant this, O Lord, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

The melancholy of this day hung long upon me.

Of the reſolutions made this day, I in ſome meaſure kept that of breaking from indolence.

March 28, 1754, at night.

ALmighty God, vouchſafe to ſanctify unto me the reflections and reſolutions of this day; let not my ſorrow be unprofitable; let not my reſolutions be vain. Grant that my grief may produce true repentance, ſo that I may live to pleaſe Thee; and when the time ſhall come that I muſt die like her whom thou haſt taken from me, grant me eternal happineſs in thy preſence, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

1755.

On the Study of Philoſophy, as an Inſtrument of Living.

July.

O Lord, who haſt ordained labour to be the lot of man, and ſeeſt the neceſſities of all thy creatures, bleſs my ſtudies and endeavours; feed me with food convenient for me; and if it ſhall be thy good pleaſure to intruſt me with plenty, give me a compaſſionate heart, that I may be ready to relieve the wants of others; let

let neither poverty nor riches eſtrange my heart from Thee, but aſſiſt me with thy grace ſo to live as that I may die in thy favour, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

This Study was not perſued.

Tranſcribed June 26, 1768.

1756.

January 1, afternoon.

ALmighty and everlaſting God, in whom we live and move, and have our being; glory be to Thee for my recovery from ſickneſs, and the continuance of my life. Grant, O my God, that I may improve the year which I am now beginning, and all the days which thou ſhalt add to my life, by ſerious repentance and diligent obedience; that by the help of thy Holy Spirit, I may uſe the means of grace to my own ſalvation, and at laſt enjoy thy preſence in eternal happineſs, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

HILL BOOTHBY's *Death.*

January, 1756.

O Lord God, almighty diſpoſer of all things, in whoſe hands are life and death, who giveſt comforts and takeſt them away, I return Thee thanks for the good example of Hill Boothby, whom thou haſt now taken away, and implore thy grace, that I may improve the opportunity of inſtruction which thou haſt afforded me, by the knowledge of her life, and by the ſenſe of her death; that I may conſider the uncertainty of my preſent ſtate, and apply myſelf earneſtly to the duties which thou haſt ſet before me; that living in thy fear, I may

die

die in thy favour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I commend, &c. W. and H. B.

Transcribed June 26, 1768.

When my Eye was restored to its Use.

February 15, 1756.

ALmighty God, who hast restored light to my eye, and enabled me to persue again the studies which thou hast set before me; teach me by the diminution of my sight, to remember that whatever I possess is thy gift, and by its recovery, to hope for thy mercy: and, O Lord, take not thy Holy Spirit from me; but grant that I may use thy bounties according to thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.

March 25, 1756.

O God, who deſireſt not the death of a ſinner, look down with mercy upon me, now daring to call upon Thee. Let thy Holy Spirit ſo purify my affections, and exalt my deſires, that my prayer may be acceptable in thy ſight, through Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

March 28, about 2 in the morning.

ALmighty God, our heavenly Father, whoſe judgments terminate in mercy, grant, I beſeech Thee, that the re-

membrance of my wife, whom thou haſt taken from me, may not load my ſoul with unprofitable ſorrow, but may excite in me true repentance of my ſins and negligences; and, by the co-operation of thy grace, may produce in me a new life, pleaſing to Thee. Grant, that the loſs of my wife may teach me the true uſe of the bleſſings which are yet left me; and that, however bereft of worldly comforts, I may find peace and refuge in thy ſervice, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

1757.

Jan. 1, at two in the morning.

ALmighty God, who haſt brought me to the beginning of another year, and by prolonging my life inviteſt to repentance, forgive me that I have miſpent the time paſt; enable me, from this inſtant, to amend my life according to thy holy word; grant me thy Holy Spirit, that I may ſo paſs through things temporal, as not finally to loſe the things eternal. O God, hear my prayer for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, Amen.

EASTER EVE.

ALmighty God, heavenly Father, who deſireſt not the death of a ſinner, look down with mercy upon me, depraved with vain imaginations, and entangled in long habits of ſin. Grant me that race, without which I can neither will nor do what is acceptable to Thee. Pardon my ſins; remove the impediments that hinder my obedience; enable me to ſhake off ſloth, and to redeem the time miſpent in idleneſs and ſin, by a diligent application of the days yet remaining, to the duties which thy providence ſhall allot me. O God, grant me thy Holy Spirit, that I may repent and amend my life; grant me con-

contrition, grant me reſolution, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, to whoſe covenant I now implore admiſſion, of the benefits of whoſe death I implore participation. For his ſake have mercy on me, O God; for his ſake, O God, pardon and receive me. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1757.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, by whoſe providence my life has been prolonged, and who haſt granted me now to begin another year of probation, vouchſafe me ſuch aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, that the continuance of my life may not add to the meaſure of my guilt; but

but that I may ſo repent of the days and years paſſed in neglect of the duties which thou haſt ſet before me, in vain thoughts, in ſloth, and in folly, that I may apply my heart to true wiſdom, by diligence redeem the time loſt, and by repentance obtain pardon, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

1758.

EASTER DAY.

March 26.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt created me to love and to ſerve Thee, enable me ſo to partake of the ſacrament in which the death of Jeſus Chriſt is commemorated, that I may henceforward lead a new life in thy faith and fear. Thou, who knoweſt my frailties and infirmities, ſtrengthen and ſupport me; grant me thy Holy Spirit, that, after all my lapſes, I may now continue ſtedfaſt in obedience, that, after long

long habits of negligence and ſin, I may at laſt, work out my ſalvation with diligence and conſtancy; purify my thoughts from pollutions, and fix my affections on things eternal. Much of my time paſt has been loſt in ſloth; let not what remains, O Lord, be given me in vain; but let me, from this time, lead a better life, and ſerve Thee with a quiet mind, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

March 28, 1758.

ALmighty and eternal God, who giveſt life and takeſt it away, grant that while Thou ſhalt prolong my continuance on earth, I may live with a due

due ſenſe of thy mercy and forbearance, and let the remembrance of her whom thy hand has ſeparated from me, teach me to conſider the ſhortneſs and uncertainty of life, and to uſe all diligence to obtain eternal happineſs in thy preſence. O God, enable me to avoid ſloth, and to attend heedfully and conſtantly to thy word and worſhip. Whatever was good in the example of my departed wife, teach me to follow; and whatever was amiſs, give me grace to ſhun, that my affliction may be ſanctified, and that remembering how much every day brings me nearer to the grave, I may every day purify my mind, and amend my life, by the aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, till at laſt I ſhall be accepted by Thee, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

Sept. 18, horâ primâ matutinâ.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who yet ſpareſt and yet ſupporteſt me, who ſupporteſt me in my weakneſs and ſpareſt me in my ſins, and haſt now granted to me to begin another year, enable me to improve the time which is yet before me, to thy glory and my own ſalvation. Impreſs upon my ſoul ſuch repentance of the days miſpent in idleneſs and folly, that I may henceforward diligently attend to the buſineſs of my ſtation in this world, and to all the duties which Thou haſt commanded. Let thy Holy Spirit comfort and guide me, that in my paſſage through the pains or pleaſures of the preſent ſtate, I may never be tempted to forgetfulneſs of Thee. Let

my

my life be uſeful, and my death be happy; let me live according to thy laws, and die with juſt confidence in thy mercy, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

This year I hope to learn diligence.

1759.

Jan. 23.

The day on which my dear Mother was buried. Repeated on my faſt, with the addition.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, in whoſe hands are life and death, ſanctify unto me the ſorrow which I now feel. Forgive me whatever I have done unkindly to my mother, and whatever I have omitted to do kindly. Make me to remember her good precepts and good exam-

example, and to reform my life according to thy holy word, that I may loſe no more opportunities of good. I am ſorrowful, O Lord; let not my ſorrow be without fruit. Let it be followed by holy reſolutions, and laſting amendment, that when I ſhall die like my mother, I may be received to everlaſting life.

I commend, O Lord, ſo far as it may be lawful, into thy hands, the ſoul of my departed mother, beſeeching Thee to grant her whatever is moſt beneficial to her in her preſent ſtate.

O Lord, grant me thy Holy Spirit, and have mercy upon me for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

And,

And, O Lord, grant unto me that am now about to return to the common comforts and buſineſs of the world, ſuch moderation in all enjoyments, ſuch diligence in honeſt labour, and ſuch purity of mind, that, amidſt the changes, miſeries, or pleaſures of life, I may keep my mind fixed upon Thee, and improve every day in grace, till I ſhall be received into thy kingdom of eternal happineſs.

I returned thanks for my mother's good example, and implored pardon for neglecting it.

I returned thanks for the alleviation of my ſorrow.

The dream of my brother I ſhall remember.

Jej.

March 24, 1759,
rather 25, after 12 at night.

ALmighty God, heavenly Father, who haſt graciouſly prolonged my life to this time, and by the change of outward things which I am now to make, calleſt me to a change of inward affections, and to a reformation of my thoughts, words, and practices; Vouchſafe, merciful Lord, that this call may not be vain. Forgive me whatever has been amiſs in the ſtate which I am now leaving, idleneſs, and neglect of thy word and worſhip. Grant me the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that

that the courſe which I am now beginning may proceed according to thy laws, and end in the enjoyment of thy favour. Give me, O Lord, pardon, and peace, that I may ſerve Thee with humble confidence, and after this life, enjoy thy preſence in eternal happineſs.

And, O Lord, ſo far as it may be lawful for me, I commend to thy Fatherly goodneſs, my father, my brother, my wife, my mother. I beſeech Thee to look mercifully upon them, and grant them whatever may moſt promote their preſent and eternal joy.

O Lord, hear my prayers for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghoſt, three perſons and one God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

O Lord, let the change which I am now making in outward things, produce in me ſuch a change of manners, as may fit me for the great change through which my wife has paſſed.

1760.

Sept. 18.

RESOLVED, D[*eo*] j[*uvante*],

To combat notions of obligation.
To apply to ſtudy.
To reclaim imagination.
To conſult the reſolves on Tetty's coffin.
To riſe early.
To ſtudy religion.
To go to church.
To drink leſs ſtrong liquors.
To keep a journal.
To oppoſe lazineſs, by doing what is to be done to-morrow.

Riſe

Riſe as early as I can.

Send for books for Hiſt. of War.

Put books in order.

Scheme life.

O Almighty God, merciful Father, who haſt continued my life to another year, grant that I may ſpend the time which Thou ſhalt yet give me in ſuch obedience to thy word and will, that, finally, I may obtain everlaſting life. Grant that I may repent and forſake my ſins before the miſeries of age fall upon me; and that while my ſtrength yet remains, I may uſe it to thy glory and my own ſalvation, by the aſſiſtance of thy Holy Spirit, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

1761.

EASTER EVE.

SINCE the communion of laſt Eaſter, I have led a life ſo diſſipated and uſeleſs, and my terrours and perplexities have ſo much encreaſed, that I am under great depreſſion and diſcouragement; yet I purpoſe to preſent myſelf before God to-morrow, with humble hope that he will not break the bruiſed reed.

Come unto me all ye that travail.

I have reſolved, I hope not preſumptuouſly, till I am afraid to reſolve again. Yet hoping in God, I ſtedfaſtly purpoſe to lead a new life. O God, enable me, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake.

My purpoſe is,

To avoid idleneſs.

To regulate my ſleep as to length and choice of hours.

To ſet down every day what ſhall be done the day following.

To keep a journal.

To worſhip God more diligently.

To go to church every Sunday.

To ſtudy the Scriptures.

To read a certain portion every week.

EASTER EVE.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, look down upon my miſery with pity; ſtrengthen me that I may overcome all ſinful habits; grant that I may, with effectual faith, commemorate the death of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt, ſo that all corrupt deſires may be extinguiſhed, and all vain thoughts may be diſpelled. Enlighten me with true knowledge, animate me with reaſonable hope, comfort me with a juſt ſenſe of thy love, and aſſiſt me to the performance of all holy purpoſes, that after the ſins, errours, and miſeries of this world, I may obtain everlaſting happineſs

neſs for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. To whom, *&c.* Amen.

I hope to attend on God in his ordinances to-morrow.

Truſt in God, O my ſoul. O God, let me truſt in Thee.

1762.

March 28.

GOD grant that I may, from this day,
Return to my ſtudies.
Labour diligently.
Riſe early.
Live temperately.
Read the Bible.
Go to church.

O God, giver and preſerver of all life, by whoſe power I was created, and by whoſe providence I am ſuſtained, look down upon me with tenderneſs and mer-

cy; grant that I may not have been created to be finally deſtroyed; that I may not be preſerved to add wickedneſs to wickedneſs; but may ſo repent me of my ſins, and ſo order my life to come, that when I ſhall be called hence, like the wife whom Thou haſt taken from me, I may die in peace and in thy favour, and be received into thine everlaſting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of Jeſus Chriſt thine only Son our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

1764.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who by thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt haſt redeemed us from ſin and death, grant that the commemoration of his paſſion may quicken my repentance, increaſe my hope, and ſtrengthen my faith; that I may lament and forſake my ſins; and, for the time which Thou ſhalt yet grant me, may avoid idleneſs, and neglect of thy word and worſhip. Grant me ſtrength to be diligent in the lawful employments which ſhall be ſet before me; grant me purity of thoughts, words, and actions.

Grant me to love and ſtudy thy word, and to frequent thy worſhip with pure affection. Deliver and preſerve me from vain terrours, and grant that by the grace of thy Holy Spirit I may ſo live, that after this life ended, I may be received to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 20, 1764.

I have made no reformation; I have lived totally uſeleſs, more ſenſual in thought, and more addicted to wine and meat. Grant me, O God, to amend my life, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

I hope
To put my rooms in order *.
I faſted all day.

* Diſorder I have found one great cauſe of idleneſs.

April 21, 1764, 3 in the morning.

MY indolence, ſince my laſt reception of the Sacrament, has ſunk into groſſer ſluggiſhneſs, and my diſſipation ſpread into wilder negligence. My thoughts have been clouded with ſenſuality; and, except that from the beginning of this year I have in ſome meaſure forborn exceſs of ſtrong drink, my appetites have predominated over my reaſon. A kind of ſtrange oblivion has overſpread me, ſo that I know not what has become of the laſt year; and perceive that incidents and intelligence paſs over me without leaving any impreſſion.

This is not the life to which heaven is promiſed. I purpoſe to approach the

the altar again to-morrow. Grant, O Lord, that I may receive the Sacrament with ſuch reſolutions of a better life as may by thy grace be effectual, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

April 21. I read the whole Goſpel of St. John. Then ſat up till the 22d.

My purpoſe is from this time,

To reject or expel ſenſual images, and idle thoughts.

To provide ſome uſeful amuſement for leiſure time.

To avoid idleneſs.

To riſe early.

To ſtudy a proper portion of every day.

To worſhip God diligently.

To

To read the Scriptures.

To let no week paſs without reading ſome part.

To write down my obſervations.

I will renew my reſolutions made at Tetty's death.

I perceive an inſenſibility and heavineſs upon me. I am leſs than commonly oppreſſed with the ſenſe of ſin, and leſs affected with the ſhame of idleneſs. Yet I will not deſpair. I will pray to God for reſolution, and will endeavour to ſtrengthen my faith in Chriſt, by commemorating his death.

I prayed for Tett.

EASTER DAY.

April 22, 1764.

HAVING, before I went to bed, compoſed the foregoing meditation, and the following prayer; I tried to compoſe myſelf, but ſlept unquietly. I roſe, took tea, and prayed for reſolution and perſeverance. Thought on Tetty, dear poor Tetty, with my eyes full.

I went to church; came in at the firſt of the Pſalms, and endeavoured to attend the ſervice, which I went through without perturbation. Af-

ter ſermon, I recommended Tetty in a prayer by herſelf; and my father, mother, brother, and Bathurſt, in another. I did it only once, ſo far as it might be lawful for me.

I then prayed for reſolution and perſeverance to amend my life. I received ſoon, the communicants were many. At the altar, it occurred to me that I ought to form ſome reſolutions. I reſolved, in the preſence of God, but without a vow, to repel ſinful thoughts, to ſtudy eight hours daily, and, I think, to go to church every Sunday, and read the Scriptures. I gave a ſhilling; and ſeeing a poor girl at the ſacrament in a bedgown, gave her privately a crown, though I

ſaw

ſaw Hart's Hymns in her hand. I prayed earneſtly for amendment, and repeated my prayer at home. Dined with Miſs W——, went to prayers at church; went to ————, ſpent the evening not pleaſantly. Avoided wine, and tempered a very few glaſſes with ſherbet. Came home and prayed.

I ſaw at the Sacrament a man meanly dreſſed, whom I have always ſeen there at Eaſter.

EASTER DAY.

Againſt looſe Thoughts and Idleneſs:

April 22, 1764, at 3 morning.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt created and preſerved me, have pity on my weakneſs and corruption. Deliver me from habitual wickedneſs and idleneſs; enable me to purify my thoughts, to uſe the faculties which Thou haſt given me with honeſt diligence, and to regulate my life by thy holy word.

Grant me, O Lord, good purpoſes and ſteady reſolution, that I may repent my ſins, and amend my life. Deliver me from

from the diſtreſſes of vain terrour, and enable me, by thy grace, to will and to do what may pleaſe Thee; that when I ſhall be called away from this preſent ſtate, I may obtain everlaſting happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1764, about 6 evening.

THIS is my fifty-ſixth-birth day, the day on which I have concluded fifty-five years.

I have outlived many friends. I have felt many ſorrows. I have made few improvements. Since my reſolution formed laſt Eaſter, I have made no advancement in knowledge or in good-

neſs;

neſs; nor do I recollect that I have endeavoured it. I am dejected, but not hopeleſs.

O God, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, have mercy upon me.

7 in the evening.

I went to church, prayed *to be looſed from the chain of my ſins.*

I have now ſpent fifty-five years in reſolving; having from the earlieſt time almoſt that I can remember, been forming ſchemes of a better life. I have done nothing; the need of doing therefore is preſſing, ſince the time of doing is ſhort. O God, grant me to reſolve aright, and to keep my reſolution, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

Hæc limina vitæ. STAT.

I re-

I reſolve,

To ſtudy the Scriptures; I hope, in the original languages. Six hundred and forty verſes every Sunday, will nearly compriſe the Scriptures in a year.

To read good books; to ſtudy theology.

To treaſure in my mind paſſages for recollection.

To riſe early; not later than ſix, if I can; I hope ſooner, but as ſoon as I can.

To keep a journal, both of employment and of expences. To keep accounts.

To take care of my health, by ſuch means as I have deſigned.

To ſet down at night ſome plan for the morrow.

Laſt year I prayed on my birth-day, by accommodating the Morning Collect for Grace, putting *year* for *day*. This I did this day.

Sept. 18, 1764.

O God, heavenly Father, who deſireſt not the death of a ſinner, grant that I may turn from my wickedneſs and live. Enable me to ſhake off all impediments of lawful action, and ſo to order my life, that increaſe of days may produce increaſe of grace, of tranquillity of thought, and vigour in duty. Grant that my reſolves may be effectual to a holy life, and a happy death, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

To-morrow I purpoſe to regulate my room.

1765.

EASTER DAY.

April 7, about 3 in the morning.

I purpoſe again to partake of the bleſſed Sacrament; yet when I conſider how vainly I have hitherto reſolved, at this annual commemoration of my Saviour's death, to regulate my life by his laws, I am almoſt afraid to renew my reſolutions. Since the laſt Eaſter I have reformed no evil habit, my time has been unprofitably ſpent, and

ſeems

ſeems as a dream that has left nothing behind. My memory grows confuſed, and I know not how the days paſs over me.

Good Lord, deliver me.

I will call upon God to-morrow for repentance and amendment. O heavenly Father, let not my call be vain, but grant me to deſire what may pleaſe Thee; and fulfil thoſe deſires for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

My

My reſolutions, which God perfect, are,

1. To avoid looſe thoughts.
2. To riſe at eight every morning.

I hope to extend theſe purpoſes to other duties; but it is neceſſary to combat evil habits ſingly. I purpoſe to riſe at eight, becauſe, though I ſhall not yet riſe early, it will be much earlier than I now riſe, for I often lie till two, and will gain me much time, and tend to a conqueſt over idleneſs, and give time for other duties. I hope to riſe yet earlier.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who hateſt nothing that thou haſt made, nor deſireſt the death of a ſinner, look down with mercy upon me, and grant that I may turn from my wickedneſs and live. Forgive the days and years which I have paſſed in folly, idleneſs, and ſin. Fill me with ſuch ſorrow for the time miſpent, that I may amend my life according to thy holy word; ſtrengthen me againſt habitual idleneſs, and enable me to direct my thoughts to the performance of every duty; that while I live I may ſerve Thee in the ſtate to which Thou ſhalt call me, and at laſt by a holy and happy death be delivered from the ſtruggles and ſorrows of this life, and obtain eternal

eternal happineſs, by thy mercy, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

O God, have mercy on me.

At church I purpoſe,

Before I leave the pew, to pray the occaſional prayer, and read my reſolutions.

To pray for Tetty and the reſt.

The like after communion.

At intervals to uſe the Collects of Fourth after Trinity, and Firſt and Fourth after Epiphany, and to meditate.

This

This was done as I purpoſed, but with ſome diſtraction. I came in at the Pſalms, and could not well hear. I renewed my reſolutions at the altar. God perfect them. Then I came home. I prayed, and have hope; grant, O Lord, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, that my hope may not be vain.

I invited home with me the man whoſe pious behaviour I had for ſeveral years obſerved on this day, and found him a kind of Methodiſt, full of texts, but ill-inſtructed. I talked to him with temper, and offered him twice wine, which he refuſed. I ſuffered him

him to go without the dinner which I had purpoſed to give him. I thought this day that there was ſomething irregular and particular in his look and geſture; but having intended to invite him to acquaintance, and having a fit opportunity by finding him near my own ſeat after I had miſſed him, I did what I at firſt deſigned, and am ſorry to have been ſo much diſappointed. Let me not be prejudiced hereafter againſt the appearance of piety in mean perſons, who, with indeterminate notions, and perverſe or inelegant converſation, perhaps are doing all they can.

At night I uſed the occaſional prayer with proper Collects.

Before the Study of LAW.

Sept. 26, 1765.

ALmighty God, the giver of wiſdom, without whoſe help reſolutions are vain, without whoſe bleſſing ſtudy is ineffectual, enable me, if it be thy will, to attain ſuch knowledge as may qualify me to direct the doubtful, and inſtruct the ignorant, to prevent wrongs, and terminate contention; and grant that I may uſe that knowledge which I ſhall attain, to thy glory and my own ſalvation, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

Engaging in POLITICKS with H—n.

Nov. 1765.

ALmighty God, who art the giver of all wiſdom, enlighten my underſtanding with knowledge of right, and govern my will by thy laws, that no deceit may miſlead me, nor temptation corrupt me; that I may always endeavour to do good, and to hinder evil. Amidſt all the hopes and fears of this world, take not thy holy Spirit from me; but grant that my thoughts may be fixed on Thee, and that I may finally attain everlaſting happineſs, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

1766.

Jan. 1, after 2 in the morning.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, I again appear in thy preſence, the wretched miſpender of another year, which thy mercy has allowed me. O Lord, let me not ſink into total depravity, look down upon me, and reſcue me at laſt from the captivity of ſin. Impart to me good reſolutions, and give me ſtrength and perſeverance to perform them. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but grant that I may redeem the time loſt, and that by temperance and di-

diligence, by ſincere repentance and faithful obedience, I may finally obtain everlaſting happineſs for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

STUDY.

Entering Novum Muſeum.

March 7.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt graciouſly ſupplied me with new conveniencies for ſtudy, grant that I may uſe thy gifts to thy glory. Forgive me the time miſpent, relieve my perplexities, ſtrengthen my reſolution, and enable me to do my duty with vigour and

conſtancy; and when the fears and hopes, the pains and pleaſures of this life ſhall have an end, receive me to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Tranſcribed, June 26, —68.

Sept. 18, 1766, at Streatham.

I have this day completed my fifty-ſeventh year. O Lord, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, have mercy upon me.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt granted me to prolong my life to another year, look down upon me with pity. Let not my manifold ſins and negligences

gligences avert from me thy fatherly regard. Enlighten my mind that I may know my duty; that I may perform it, ſtrengthen my reſolution. Let not another year be loſt in vain deliberations; let me remember, that of the ſhort life of man, a great part is already paſt in ſinfulneſs and ſloth. Deliver me, gracious Lord, from the bondage of evil cuſtoms, and take not from me thy Holy Spirit; but enable me ſo to ſpend my remaining days, that, by performing thy will, I may promote thy glory; and grant that after the troubles and diſappointments of this mortal ſtate, I may obtain everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Added,

The Fourteenth S. after Tr.
The Morning Collect.
The beginning of this (day) year.

Purpoſes,

To keep a journal. To begin this day.
To ſpend four hours every day in ſtudy, and as much more as I can.
To read a portion of the ſcriptures in Greek, every Sunday.
To riſe at eight.

Oct. 3, —66. Of all this I have done nothing.

I returned from Streatham, Oct. 1, —66, having lived there more than three months.

1767.

Jan. 1, 1 ma mane ſcripſi.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, in whoſe hand are life and death, as Thou haſt ſuffered me to ſee the beginning of another year, grant, I beſeech Thee, that another year may not be loſt in idleneſs, or ſquandered in unprofitable employment. Let not ſin prevail on the remaining part of life, and take not from me thy Holy Spirit; but as every day brings me nearer to my end, let every day contribute to make my end holy and happy. Enable me, O Lord, to uſe all

enjoyments with due temperance, preſerve me from unſeaſonable and immoderate ſleep, and enable me to run with diligence the race that is ſet before me, that, after the troubles of this life, I may obtain everlaſting happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Auguſt 2, 1767.

I have been diſturbed and unſettled for a long time, and have been without reſolution to apply to ſtudy or to buſineſs, being hindered by ſudden ſnatches.

I have

I have for ſome days forborn wine and ſuppers. Abſtinence is not eaſily practiſed in another's houſe; but I think it fit to try.

I was extremely perturbed in the night, but have had this day more eaſe than I expected. D. gr. Perhaps this may be ſuch a ſudden relief as I once had by a good night's reſt in Fetter-lane.

The ſhortneſs of the time which the common order of nature allows me to expect, is very frequently upon my mind. God grant that it may profit me.

Auguſt 17, 1767.

From that time, by abſtinence, I have had more eaſe. I have read five books of Homer, and hope to end the ſixth to night. I have given Mrs. —— a guinea.

By abſtinence from wine and ſuppers, I obtained ſudden and great relief, and had freedom of mind reſtored to me; which I have wanted for all this year, without being able to find any means of obtaining it.

I am now about to receive, with my old friend Kitty Chambers, the ſacrament, preparatory to her death. Grant, O God, that it may fit me. I purpoſe tem-

temperance for my reſolution. O God, enable me to keep my purpoſe to thy glory.

5. 32. P. M.

I have communicated with Kitty, and kiſſed her. I was for ſome time diſtracted, but at laſt more compoſed. I commended my friends and Kitty. Lucy and I were much affected. Kitty is, I think, going to heaven.

Aug. 17, 1767.

O God, grant that I may practiſe ſuch temperance in meat, drink, and ſleep, and all bodily enjoyments, as may fit me for the duties to which Thou ſhalt call me,

and

and by thy bleſſing procure me freedom of thought and quietneſs of mind, that I may ſo ſerve Thee in this ſhort and frail life, that I may be received by Thee at my death to everlaſting happineſs. Take not, O Lord, thy Holy Spirit from me; deliver me not up to vain fears; but have mercy on me, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

O God, who deſireſt not the death, &c.

O Lord, grant us increaſe—

O God,—pardon and peace—

O God, who knoweſt our neceſſities—

Our Father—

Sunday, Oct. 18, 1767.

YESTERDAY, Oct. 17, at about ten in the morning, I took my leave for ever of my dear old friend Catherine Chambers, who came to live with my mother about 1724, and has been but little parted from us ſince. She buried my father, my brother, and my mother. She is now fifty-eight years old.

I deſired all to withdraw, then told her that we were to part for ever; that as Chriſtians, we ſhould part with prayer; and that I would, if ſhe was willing, ſay a ſhort prayer beſide her. She expreſſed great deſire to hear me; and held up her poor hands, as ſhe lay in bed, with great fervour, while I prayed kneeling by her, nearly in the following words:

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, whoſe loving-kindneſs is over all thy works, behold, viſit, and relieve this thy ſervant, who is grieved with ſickneſs. Graut that the ſenſe of her weakneſs may add ſtrength to her faith and ſeriouſneſs to her repentance. And grant that by the help of thy Holy Spirit, after the pains and labours of this ſhort life, we may all obtain everlaſting happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord; for whoſe ſake hear our prayers. Amen. Our Father, &c.

I then kiſſed her. She told me, that to part was the greateſt pain that ſhe had ever felt, and that ſhe hoped we ſhould meet again in a better place. I expreſſed, with ſwelled eyes, and great emotion of tenderneſs, the ſame hopes. We kiſſed, and parted. I humbly hope to meet again, and to part no more.

1768.

BED-TIME.

Lent 2.

ALmighty God, who ſeeſt that I have no power of myſelf to help myſelf; keep me both outwardly in my body, and inwardly in my ſoul, that I may be defended from all adverſities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may aſſault and hurt the ſoul, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

This prayer may be ſaid before or after the entrance into bed, as a preparative for ſleep.

When I tranſcribed this Prayer, it was my purpoſe to have made this * Book a Collection.

* [A parchment book containing ſuch of theſe Prayers as are marked *tranſcribed.*]

Study of Tongues.

ALmighty God, giver of all knowledge, enable me ſo to perſue the ſtudy of tongues, that I may promote thy glory and my own ſalvation.

Bleſs my endeavours, as ſhall ſeem beſt unto Thee; and if it ſhall pleaſe Thee to grant me the attainment of my purpoſe, preſerve me from ſinful pride; take not thy Holy Spirit from me, but give me a pure heart and humble mind, through Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

Of this Prayer there is no date, nor can I tell when it is was written; but I think it was in Gough-ſquare, after the Dictionary was ended. I did not ſtudy what I then intended.

Tranſcribed June 26, 1768.

Townmalling, in Kent,
Sept. 18, 1768, at night.

I HAVE now begun the ſixtieth year of my life. How the laſt year has paſt, I am unwilling to terrify myſelf with thinking. This day has been paſt in great perturbation; I was diſtracted at church in an uncommon degree, and my diſtreſs has had very little intermiſſion. I have found myſelf ſomewhat relieved by reading, which I therefore intend to practiſe when I am able.

This day it came into my mind to write the hiſtory of my melancholy. On this I purpoſe to deliberate; I know not whether it may not too much diſturb me.

I this

I this day read a great part of Paſcal's life.

O Lord, who haſt ſafely brought me, &c.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, Creator and Preſerver of mankind, look down with pity upon my troubles and maladies. Heal my body, ſtrengthen my mind, compoſe my diſtraction, calm my inquietude, and relieve my terrours; that if it pleaſe Thee, I may run the race that is ſet before me with peace, patience, conſtancy, and confidence. Grant this, O Lord, and take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but pardon and bleſs me, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord.

1769.

January 1.

I AM now about to begin another year: how the laſt has paſt, it would be in my ſtate of weakneſs perhaps not prudent too ſolicitouſly to recollect. God will, I hope, turn my ſufferings to my benefit, forgive me whatever I have done amiſs, and having vouchſafed me great relief, will by degrees heal and reſtore both my mind and body; and permit me, when the laſt year of my life ſhall come, to leave the world in holineſs and tranquillity.

I am

I am not yet in a ſtate to form many reſolutions; I purpoſe, and hope to riſe early in the morning, at eight, and by degrees at ſix; eight being the lateſt hour to which bed-time can be properly extended; and fix the earlieſt that the preſent ſyſtem of life requires.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt continued my life from year to year, grant that by longer life I may become leſs deſirous of ſinful pleaſures, and more careful of eternal happineſs. As age comes upon me, let my mind be more withdrawn from vanity and folly, more enlightened with the knowledge of thy will, and more invigorated with reſolution

ſolution to obey it. O Lord, calm my thoughts, direct my deſires, and fortify my purpoſes. If it ſhall pleaſe Thee, give quiet to my latter days, and ſo ſupport me with thy grace, that I may die in thy favour, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Safely brought us to the beginning of this year, &c.

September 18, 1769.

THIS day completes the ſixtieth year of my age. What I have done, and what I have left undone, the unſettled ſtate of my mind makes all endeavours to think improper. I hope to ſurvey my life with more tranquillity, in ſome part of the time which God ſhall grant me.

The laſt year has been wholly ſpent in a ſlow progreſs of recovery. My days are eaſier, but the perturbation of my nights is very diſtreſsful. I think to try a lower diet. I have grown fat too

too faſt. My lungs ſeem incumbered, and my breath fails me, if my ſtrength is in any unuſual degree exerted, or my motion accelerated. I ſeem to myſelf to bear exerciſe with more difficulty than in the laſt winter. But though I feel all thoſe decays of body, I have made no preparation for the grave. What ſhall I do to be ſaved?

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, I now appear in thy preſence, laden with the ſins, and accountable for the mercies of another year. Glory be to Thee O God, for the mitigation of my troubles, and for the hope of health both of mind and body which Thou haſt vouchſafed me. Moſt merciful Lord, if it ſeem good unto Thee, compoſe my mind, and relieve my diſeaſes; enable me to perform the duties of my ſtation, and ſo to ſerve Thee, as that, when my hour of departure from this painful life ſhall be delayed no lenger, I may be received to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, without whose help all the purposes of man are vain, enable me to use such temperance as may heal my body, and strengthen my mind, and enable me to serve Thee. Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Who hast safely brought me, &c.

Sept. 19, 1769.

YESTERDAY, having risen from a disturbed and wearisome night, I was not much at rest the whole day. I prayed with the collect, *to the beginning*, in the night and in the morning. At night I composed my prayer, and wrote my reflec-

reflection. Reviewing them, I found them both weakly conceived and imperfectly expreſſed, and corrected the prayer this morning. I am glad that I have not omitted my annual practice. I hope that by rigid temperance, and moderate exerciſe, I may yet recover. I uſed the prayer again at night, and am now to begin, by the permiſſion of God, my ſixty-firſt year.

November 5, 1769.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, whoſe providence is over all thy works, look down with pity upon the diſeaſes of my body, and the perturbations of my mind. Give thy bleſſing, O Lord, to the means

which I ſhall uſe for my relief, and reſtore eaſe to my body, and quiet to my thoughts. Let not my remaining life be made uſeleſs by infirmities; neither let health, if Thou ſhalt grant it, be employed by me in diſobedience to thy laws; but give me ſuch a ſenſe of my pains, as may humble me before Thee; and ſuch remembrance of thy mercy as may produce honeſt induſtry, and holy confidence. And, O Lord, whether Thou ordaineſt my days to be paſt in eaſe or anguiſh, take not from me thy Holy Spirit; but grant that I may attain everlaſting life, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

This I found January 11, 1772; and believe it written when I began to live on milk. I grew worſe with forbearance of ſolid food.

1770.

Jan. 1, prima mane.

ALmighty God, by whoſe mercy I am permitted to behold the beginning of another year, ſuccour with thy help, and bleſs with thy favour, the creature whom thou vouchſafeſt to preſerve. Mitigate, if it ſhall ſeem beſt unto Thee, the diſeaſes of my body, and compoſe the diſorders of my mind. Diſpel my terrours; and grant, that the time which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, may not paſs unprofitably away. Let not pleaſure ſeduce me, idleneſs lull me, or miſery depreſs me. Let me perform to thy glory, and the good of my fellow-creatures, the work which

Thou ſhalt yet appoint me; and grant, that as I draw nearer to my diſſolution, I may, by the help of thy Holy Spirit, feel my knowledge of Thee encreaſed, my hope exalted, and my faith ſtrengthened; that when the hour which is coming ſhall come, I may paſs by a holy death to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Wedneſday, March 28, 1770.

THIS is the day on which, in 1752, I was deprived of poor dear Tetty. Having left off the practice of thinking on her with ſome particular combinations, I have recalled her to my mind of late leſs frequently; but when I recollect the time in which we lived together, my grief for her de-

par-

parture is not abated; and I have leſs pleaſure in any good that befalls me, becauſe ſhe does not partake it. On many occaſions, I think what ſhe would have ſaid or done. When I ſaw the ſea at Brighthelmſtone, I wiſhed for her to have ſeen it with me. But with reſpect to her, no rational wiſh is now leſt, but that we may meet at laſt where the mercy of God ſhall make us happy, and perhaps make us inſtrumental to the happineſs of each other. It is now eighteen years.

April 14, 1770.

THIS week is Paſſion Week.

I have for ſome weeks paſt been much afflicted with the lumbago, or rheumatiſm in the loins, which often paſſes to

the muſcles of the belly, where it cauſes equal, if not greater pain. In the day the ſunſhine mitigates it; and in cold or cloudy weather, ſuch as has for ſome time paſt remarkably prevailed, the heat of a ſtrong fire ſuſpends it. In the night it is ſo troubleſome, as not very eaſily to be born. I lie wrapped in flannel, with a very great fire near my bed; but whether it be that a recumbent poſture encreaſes the pain, or that expanſion by moderate warmth excites what a great heat diſſipates, I can ſeldom remain in bed two hours at a time without the neceſſity of riſing to heat the parts affected at the fire.

One

One night, between the pain and the ſpaſms in my ſtomach, I was inſupportably diſtreſſed. On the next night, I think, I laid a bliſter to my back, and took opium; my night was tolerable, and from that time, the ſpaſms in my ſtomach, which diſturbed me for many years, and for two paſt haraſſed me almoſt to diſtraction, have nearly ceaſed; I ſuppoſe the breaſt is relaxed by the opium.

Having paſſed Thurſday in Paſſion Week at Mr. Thrale's, I came home on Friday morning, that I might paſs the day unobſerved; I had nothing but water, once in the morning, and once at bedtime. I refuſed tea, after ſome delibera-

tion, in the afternoon. They did not preſs it. I came home late, and was unwilling to carry my rheumatiſm to the cold church in the morning, unleſs that were rather an excuſe made to myſelf. In the afternoon I went to church, but came late, I think at the Creed. I read Clarke's Sermons on the death of Chriſt, and the Second Epiſtle to Timothy in Greek, but rather haſtily. I then went to Thrale's, and had a very tedious and painful night. But the ſpaſms in my throat are gone; and, if either the pain, or the opiate which the pain enforced, has ſtopped them, the relief is very cheaply purchaſed. The pain haraſſes

me

me much; yet many have the diſeaſe perhaps in a much higher degree, with want of food, fire, and covering, which I find thus grievous, with all the ſuccours that riches and kindneſs can buy and give.

On Saturday I was not hungry, and did not eat much breakfaſt. There was a dinner and company, at which I was perſuaded or tempted to ſtay. At night I came home, ſat up, and compoſed the Prayer; and having ordered the maid to make the fire in my chamber, at eight went to reſt, and had a tolerable night.

EASTER DAY.

April 15, 1770, in the morning.

ALmighty and everlaſting God, who haſt preſerved me, by thy fatherly care, through all the years of my paſt life, and now permitted me again to commemorate the ſufferings and merits of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; grant me ſo to partake of this Holy Rite, that the diſquiet of my mind may be appeaſed, that my faith may be encreaſed, my hope ſtrengthened, and my life regulated by thy will. Make me truly thankful for that portion of health which thy mercy has reſtored, and enable me to uſe the remains of life to thy glory and my own ſalvation. Take not from me, O Lord,

thy

thy Holy Spirit; extinguiſh in my mind all ſinful and inordinate deſires; let me reſolve to do that which is right; and let me, by thy help, keep my reſolutions. Let me, if it be beſt for me, at laſt know peace and comfort; but whatever ſtate of life Thou ſhalt appoint me, let me end it by a happy death, and enjoy eternal happineſs in thy preſence, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

EASTER DAY.

1 in the afternoon.

I AM juſt returned from the communion, having been very little interrupted in my duty by bodily pain.

I was

I was very early at church, and uſed this Prayer, I think, before ſervice, with proper collects. I was compoſed during the ſervice. I went to the table to hear the prefatory part of the office; then returned to my pew, and tried to ſettle ſome reſolutions.

I reſolved to form, this day, ſome plan for reading the Scriptures.

To riſe by eight, or earlier.

To form a plan for the regulation of my daily life.

To excite in myſelf ſuch a fervent deſire of pleaſing God, as ſhould ſuppreſs all other paſſions.

I prayed through all the collects of meditation, with ſome extemporary prayers;

ers; recommended my friends, living and dead. When I returned to the table, I ſtaid till moſt had communicated, and in the mean time tried to ſettle my mind; prayed againſt bad and troubleſome thoughts; reſolved to oppoſe ſudden incurſions of them; and, I think, had —— thrown into my mind at the general confeſſion. When I went firſt to the table, the particular ſeries of my thoughts I cannot recollect.

When I came home I returned thanks, by accommodating the General Thankſgiving; and uſed this Prayer again, with the Collects, after receiving. I hope God has heard me.

Shall

Shall I ever receive the Sacrament with tranquillity? Surely the time will come.

Some vain thoughts ſtole upon me while I ſtood near the table; I hope I ejected them effectually, ſo as not to be hurt by them.

I went to prayers at ſeven, having faſted; read the two morning leſſons in Greek. At night I read Clarke's Sermon of the Humiliation of our Saviour.

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1 Sunday after Eaſter.

I HAVE been recovering from my rheumatiſm ſlowly yet ſenſibly; but the laſt week has produced little good

good. Uneaſy nights have tempted me to lie long in the morning. But when I wake in the night, the releaſe which ſtill continues from the ſpaſms in my throat, gives me great comfort.

The plan which I formed for reading the Scriptures, was to read 600 verſes in the Old Teſtament, and 200 in the New, every week.

The Old Teſtament in any language, the New in Greek.

This day I began to read the Septuagint, but read only 230 verſes, the nine firſt chapters of Geneſis.

On

On this evening I repeated the Prayer for Eaſter Day, changing the future tenſe to the paſt.

June 1, 1770.

EVERY man naturally perſuades himſelf that he can keep his reſolutions, nor is he convinced of his imbecillity but by length of time and frequency of experiment. This opinion of our own conſtancy is ſo prevalent, that we always deſpiſe him who ſuffers his general and ſettled purpoſe to be overpowered by an occaſional deſire. They, therefore, whom frequent failures have made deſperate, ceaſe to form reſolutions; and they who are be-

become cunning, do not tell them. Thoſe who do not make them are very few, but of their effect little is perceived; for ſcarcely any man perſiſts in a courſe of life planned by choice, but as he is reſtrained from deviation by ſome external power. He who may live as he will, ſeldom lives long in the obſervation of his own rules. I never yet ſaw a regular family, unleſs it were that of Mrs. Harriot's, nor a regular man except Mr. ——, whoſe exactneſs I know only by his own report, and Pſalmanazar, whoſe life was, I think, uniform.

1771.

EASTER DAY.

March 31.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, I am now about to commemorate once more, in thy preſence, the redemption of the world by our Lord and Saviour thy Son Jeſus Chriſt. Grant, O moſt merciful God, that the benefit of his ſufferings may be extended to me. Grant me faith, grant me repentance. Illuminate me with thy Holy Spirit, enable me to form good purpoſes, and to bring theſe purpoſes to good effect. Let me ſo diſpoſe my time, that I may diſcharge the duties

to

to which Thou ſhalt vouchſafe to call me; and let that degree of health, to which thy mercy has reſtored me, be employed to thy glory. O God, invigorate my underſtanding, compoſe my perturbations, recal my wanderings, and calm my thoughts; that having lived while Thou ſhalt grant me life, to do good and to praiſe Thee, I may, when thy call ſhall ſummon me to another ſtate, receive mercy from Thee, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1771, 9 at night.

I AM now come to my ſixty-third year. For the laſt year I have been ſlowly reco-

recovering both from the violence of my laſt illneſs, and, I think, from the general diſeaſe of my life. My breath is leſs obſtructed, and I am more capable of motion and exerciſe. My mind is leſs encumbered, and I am leſs interrupted in mental employment. Some advances I hope have been made towards regularity. I have miſſed Church ſince Eaſter only two Sundays, both which I hope I have endeavoured to ſupply by attendance on divine worſhip in the following week. Since Eaſter, my evening devotions have been lengthened. But indolence and indifference has been neither conquered nor oppoſed. No plan of ſtudy has been perſued or formed

formed, except that I have commonly read every week, if not on Sunday, a ſtated portion of the New Teſtament in Greek. But what is moſt to be conſidered, I have neither attempted nor formed any ſcheme of life by which I may do good, and pleaſe God.

One great hindrance is want of reſt; my nocturnal complaints grow leſs troubleſome towards morning; and I am tempted to repair the deficiencies of the night. I think, however, to try to riſe every day by eight, and to combat indolence as I ſhall obtain ſtrength. Perhaps Providence has yet ſome uſe for the remnant of my life.

ALmighty and everlaſting God, whoſe mercy is over all thy works, and who haſt no pleaſure in the death of a ſinner, look with pity upon me, ſuccour and preſerve me: enable me to conquer evil habits, and ſurmount temptations. Give me grace ſo to uſe the degree of health which Thou haſt reſtored to my mind and body, that I may perform the taſk Thou ſhalt yet appoint me. Look down, O gracious Lord, upon my remaining part of life; grant, if it pleaſe Thee, that the days few or many which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, may paſs in reaſonable confidence, and holy tranquillity. Withhold not

not thy Holy Spirit from me, but ſtrengthen all good purpoſes, till they ſhall produce a life pleaſing to Thee. And when Thou ſhalt call me to another ſtate, forgive me my ſins, and receive me to happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Safely brought us, &c.

Sept. 23, 1771.

ON the 18th, in the morning, before I went to bed, I uſed the general prayer [beginning of this year] when I roſe. I came home from Mr. Thrale's that I might be more maſter of my

hours. I went to church in the morning, but came in to the Litany. I have gone voluntarily to church on the week day but few times in my life. I think to mend.

At night I compoſed and uſed the prayer, which I have uſed ſince in my devotions one morning. Having been ſomewhat diſturbed, I have not yet ſettled in any plan, except that yeſterday I began to learn ſome verſes in the Greek Teſtament for a Sunday's recital. I hope, by truſt in God, to amend my life.

1772.

Jan. 1, 2 in the Morning.

ALmighty God, who haſt permitted me to ſee the beginning of another year, enable me ſo to receive thy mercy, as that it may raiſe in me ſtronger deſires of pleaſing Thee by purity of mind and holineſs of life. Strengthen me, O Lord, in good purpoſes, and reaſonable meditations. Look with pity upon all my diſorders of mind and infirmities of body. Grant that the reſidue of my life may enjoy ſuch degrees of health as may permit me to be uſeful, and that I may live to

thy glory; and, O merciful Lord, when it ſhall pleaſe Thee to call me from the preſent ſtate, enable me to die in confidence of thy mercy, and receive me to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

To riſe in the morning.

EASTER EVE.

April 18, 1772.

I AM now again preparing, by divine mercy, to commemorate the death of my gracious Redeemer, and to form, as God ſhall enable me, reſolutions and purpoſes of a better life.

When

When I review the laſt year, I am able to recollect ſo little done, that ſhame and ſorrow, though perhaps too weakly, come upon me; yet I have been generally free from local pain, and my ſtrength has ſeemed gradually to increaſe. But my ſleep has generally been unquiet, and I have not been able to riſe early. My mind is unſettled, and my memory confuſed. I have of late turned my thoughts, with a very uſeleſs earneſtneſs, upon paſt incidents. I have yet got no command over my thoughts; an unpleaſing incident is almoſt certain to hinder my reſt; this is the remainder of my laſt illneſs. By ſleepleſs or un-

quiet nights, and ſhort days, made ſhort by late riſing, the time paſſes away uncounted and unheeded. Life ſo ſpent is uſeleſs.

I hope to caſt my time into ſome ſtated method.

To let no hour paſs unemployed.

To riſe by degrees more early in the morning.

To keep a journal.

I have, I think, been leſs guilty of neglecting public worſhip than formerly. I have commonly on Sunday gone once to church, and if I have miſſed, have reproached myſelf.

I have

I have exerted rather more activity of body. Theſe diſpoſitions I deſire to improve.

I reſolved, laſt Eaſter, to read within the year, the whole Bible, a very great part of which I had never looked upon. I read the Greek Teſtament without conſtruing, and this day concluded the Apocalypſe. I think that no part was miſſed.

My purpoſe of reading the reſt of the Bible was forgotten, till I took by chance the reſolutions of laſt Eaſter in my hand.

I began it the firſt day of Lent; and, for a time, read with ſome regularity. I was then diſturbed or ſeduced, but finiſhed the Old Teſtament laſt Thurſday.

I hope to read the whole Bible once a year, as long as I live.

Yeſterday I faſted, as I have always, or commonly done, ſince the death of Tetty. The faſt was more painful than it has formerly been, which I imputed to ſome medicinal evacuations in the beginning of the week, and to a meal of cakes on the foregoing day. I cannot now faſt as formerly.

I devoted this week to the peruſal of the Bible, and have done little ſecular buſineſs.

ſineſs. I am this night eaſier than is cuſtomary on this anniverſary, but am not ſenſibly enlightened.

EASTER DAY.

After 12 at night.

THE day is now begun, on which I hope to begin a new courſe ὡσπερ ἀφ' ὑσπλήγγων.

My hopes are from this time,

To riſe early.

To waſte leſs time.

To appropriate ſomething to charity.

EASTER.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, who hateſt nothing that Thou haſt made, look down with pity upon my ſinfulneſs and weakneſs. Strengthen, O Lord, my mind; deliver me from needleſs terrours; enable me to correct all inordinate deſires, to eject all evil thoughts, to reform all ſinful habits, and ſo to amend my life, that when at the end of my days Thou ſhalt call me hence, I may depart in peace, and be received into everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

9 in the morning.

GLory be to Thee, O Lord God, for the deliverance which Thou haſt granted me from diſeaſes of mind and body. Grant, O gracious God, that I may employ the powers which thou vouchſafeſt me to thy glory, and the ſalvation of my ſoul, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

April 26, 1772.

I WAS ſome way hindered from continuing this contemplation in the uſual manner, and therefore try, at the diſtance of a week, to review the laſt Sunday.

I went to church early, having firſt, I think, uſed my prayer. When I was there, I had very little perturbation of mind. During the uſual time of meditation, I conſidered the Chriſtian duties under the three principles of ſoberneſs, righteouſneſs, and godlineſs; and purpoſed to forward godlineſs by the *annual peruſal of the Bible*; righteouſneſs *by ſettling ſomething for charity*, and ſoberneſs *by early hours*. I commended as uſual, with preface of permiſſion,

miſſion, and, I think, mentioned Bathurſt. I came home, and found Paoli and Boſwell waiting for me. What devotions I uſed after my return home, I do not diſtinctly remember. I went to prayers in the evening; and, I think, entered late.

I have this week endeavoured every day but one, to riſe early, and have tried to be diligent; but have not performed what I required from myſelf.

On Good Friday, I paid Peyton without requiring work.

Since Eaſter 1771, I have added a Collect to my evening devotion.

I have been leſs indulgent to corporeal inactivity. But I have done little with my mind.

It is a comfort to me, that at laſt, in my ſixty-third year, I have attained to know, even thus haſtily, confuſedly, and imperfectly, what my Bible contains.

May the good God encreaſe and ſanctify my knowledge.

I have never yet read the Apocrypha. When I was a boy, I have read or heard Bel and the Dragon, Suſanna, ſome of Tobit, perhaps all; ſome at leaſt of Judith, and ſome of Eccleſiaſticus; and, I ſuppoſe, the Benedicite. I have ſome time looked into the

Mac-

Maccabees, and read a chapter containing the queſtion, *Which is the ſtroneſt* * *?* I think in Eſdras.

In the afternoon of Eaſter Day, I read Pococke's Commentary.

I have this laſt week ſcarcely tried to read, nor have I read any thing this day.

I have had my mind weak, and diſturbed for ſome weeks paſt.

Having miſſed church in the morning, I went this evening, and afterwards ſat with Southwell.

Having not uſed the prayer, except on the day of communion; I will offer it this night, and hope to find mercy. On this day little has been done, and this is

* [1 Eſdras, chap. iii. ver. 10, &c.]

is now the laſt hour. In life little has been done, and life is very far advanced. Lord have mercy upon me.

1773.

Jan. 1, mane 1h. 33m.

ALmighty God, by whoſe mercy my life has been yet prolonged to another year, grant that thy mercy may not be vain. Let not my years be multiplied to increaſe my guilt; but as age advances, let me become more pure in my thoughts, more regular in my deſires, and more obedient to thy laws. Let not the cares of the world diſtract me, nor the evils of age overwhelm me. But continue and increaſe thy loving-

loving-kindneſs towards me; and when Thou ſhalt call me hence, receive me to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 9.

ON this day I went twice to church, and Boſwell was with me. I had forborn to attend divine ſervice for ſome time in the winter, having a cough which would have interrupted both my own attention and that of others; and when the cough grew leſs troubleſome, I did not

not regain the habit of going to church, though I did not wholly omit it. I found the ſervice not burdenſome nor tedious, though I could not hear the leſſons, I hope in time to take pleaſure in public worſhip.

On this whole day I took nothing of nouriſhment but one cup of tea without milk; but the faſt was very inconvenient. Towards night I grew fretful and impatient, unable to fix my mind, or govern my thoughts; and felt a very uneaſy ſenſation both in my ſtomach and head, compounded, as it ſeemed, of laxity and pains.

From

From this uneaſineſs, of which when I was not aſleep I was ſenſible all night, I was relieved in the morning by drinking tea, and eating the ſoft part of a penny loaf.

This I have ſet down for future obſervation.

Saturday, April 10, I dined on cakes, and found myſelf filled and ſatisfied.

Saturday 10. Having offered my prayers to God, I will now review the laſt year.

Of the ſpring and ſummer, I remember that I was able in thoſe ſeaſons to examine and improve my Dictionary, and was ſeldom withheld from the work but by

by my own unwillingneſs. Of my nights I have no diſtinct remembrance, but believe that, as in many foregoing years, they were painful and reſtleſs.

O God, grant that I may not miſpend or loſe the time which Thou ſhalt yet allow me. For Jeſus Chriſt's ſake, have mercy upon me.

My purpoſe is to attain, in the remaining part of the year, as much knowledge as can eaſily be had of the Goſpels and Pentateuch. Concerning the Hebrew

I am

I am in doubt. I hope likewiſe to enlarge my knowledge of divinity, by reading, at leaſt once a week, ſome ſermon, or ſmall theological tract, or ſome portion of a larger work.

To this important and extenſive ſtudy, my purpoſe is to appropriate (libere) part of every Sunday, holiday, Wedneſday, and Friday, and to begin with the Goſpels. Perhaps I may not be able to ſtudy the Pentateuch before next year.

My

My general reſolution, to which I humbly implore the help of God, is to methodiſe my life, to reſiſt ſloth. I hope from this time to keep a journal.

N. B. On Friday I read the firſt of Mark, and Clarke's Sermon on Faith.

On Saturday I read little, but wrote the foregoing account, and the following Prayer.

April 10, near midnight.

ALmighty God, by whoſe mercy I am now about to commemorate the death of my Redeemer, grant that from this time I may ſo live, as that his death may be efficacious to my eternal happineſs; enable me to conquer all evil cuſtoms; deliver me from evil and vexatious thoughts; grant me light to diſcover my duty, and grace to perform it. As my life advances, let me become more pure, and more holy. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but grant that I may ſerve Thee with diligence and confidence; and when Thou ſhalt call me hence, receive me to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY.

April 11, 1773.

I HAD more diſturbance in the night than has been cuſtomary for ſome weeks paſt. I roſe before nine in the morning, and prayed and drank tea. I came, I think, to church in the beginning of the prayers. I did not diſtinctly hear the Pſalms, and found that I had been reading the Pſalms for Good Friday. I went through the Litany, after a ſhort diſturbance, with tolerable attention.

After ſermon, I peruſed my prayer in the pew, then went nearer the altar, and being introduced into another pew, uſed

uſed my prayer again, and recommended my relations, with Bathurſt and Boothby, the nmy wife again by herſelf. Then I went nearer the altar, and read the collects choſen for meditation. I prayed for Saliſbury, and, I think, the Thrales. I then communicated with calmneſs, uſed the collect for Eaſter Day, and returning to the firſt pew, prayed my Prayer the third time. I came home; again uſed my Prayer and the Eaſter Collect. Then went into the ſtudy to Boſwel, and read the Greek Teſtament. Then dined, and when Boſwel went away, ended the four firſt chapters of St. Matthew, and the Beatitudes of the fifth.

I then went to Evening Prayers, and was compoſed.

I gave the pew-keepers each five ſhillings and three-pence.

April 12, near one in the morning. I uſed my Prayer, with my ordinary devotions, and hope to lead henceforward a better life.

Friday, June 18, 1773.

THIS day after dinner, died Mrs. Saliſbury: ſhe had for ſome days almoſt loſt the power of ſpeaking. Yeſterday, as I touched her hand, and kiſſed it,

it, ſhe preſſed my hand between her two hands, which ſhe probably intended as the parting careſs. At night her ſpeech returned a little; and ſhe ſaid, among other things, to her daughter, I have had much time, and I hope I have uſed it. This morning being called about nine to feel her pulſe, I ſaid at parting, God bleſs you, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. She ſmiled, as pleaſed. She had her ſenſes perhaps to the dying moment.

July 22, —73.

THIS day I found this * book, with the reſolutions; ſome of which I had forgotten, but remembered my deſign of reading the Pentateuch and Goſpels, though I have not perſued it.

Of the time paſt ſince theſe reſolutions were made, I can give no very laudable account. Between Eaſter and Whitſuntide, having always conſidered that time as propitious to ſtudy, I attempted to learn the Low Dutch language; my application was very ſlight, and my memory very fallaci-

* A Book, in which this, and the preceding Meditations on Good Friday and Eaſter Sunday are written.

ous,

ous, though whether more than in my earlier years, I am not very certain. My progreſs was interrupted by a fever, which, by the imprudent uſe of a ſmall print, left an inflammation in my uſeful eye, which was not removed but by two copious bleedings, and the daily uſe of cathartick for a long time. The effect yet remains.

My memory has been for a long time very much confuſed. Names, and perſons, and events, ſlide away ſtrangely from me. But I grow eaſier.

The other day, looking over old papers, I perceived a reſolution to riſe early always occurring. I think I was

aſhamed, or grieved, to find how long and how often I had reſolved, what yet, except for about one half year, I have never done. My nights are now ſuch as give me no quiet reſt; whether I have not lived reſolving till the poſſibility of performance is paſt, I know not. God help me, I will yet try.

Taliſker, in Skie,
Sept. 24. 1773.

ON laſt Saturday was my ſixty-fourth birth-day. I might perhaps have forgotten it, had not Boſwel told me of it; and, what pleaſed me leſs, told the family at Dunvegan.

The laſt year is added to thoſe of which little uſe has been made. I tried in the ſummer to learn Dutch, and was interrupted by an inflammation in my eye. I ſet out in Auguſt on this journey to Skie. I find my memory uncertain,

certain, but hope it is only by a life immethodical and ſcattered. Of my body, I do not perceive that exerciſe, or change of air, has yet either encreaſed the ſtrength or activity: My nights are ſtill diſturbed by flatulencies.

My hope is, for reſolution I dare no longer call it, to divide my time regularly, and to keep ſuch a journal of my time, as may give me comfort in reviewing it. But when I conſider my age, and the broken ſtate of my body, I have great reaſon to fear leſt death ſhould lay hold upon me, while I am yet only deſigning to live. But I have yet hope.

ALmighty God, moſt merciful Father, look down upon me with pity. Thou haſt protected me in childhood and youth, ſupport me, Lord, in my declining years. Preſerve me from the dangers of ſinful preſumption. Give me, if it be beſt for me, ſtability of purpoſes, and tranquility of mind. Let the year which I have now begun be ſpent to thy glory, and to the furtherance of my ſalvation. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but as death approaches, prepare me to appear joyfully in thy preſence, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

1774.

January 1, near 2 in the morning.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, who hateſt nothing that Thou haſt made, but wouldeſt that all ſhould be ſaved, have mercy upon me. As Thou haſt extended my life, encreaſe my ſtrength, direct my purpoſes, and confirm my reſolution, that I may truly ſerve Thee, and perform the duties which Thou ſhalt allot me.

Relieve, O gracious Lord, according to thy mercy, the pains and diſtempers of my body, and appeaſe the tumults of my mind. Let my faith and obedience encreaſe as my life advances; and let the approach of death

death incite my deſire to pleaſe Thee, and invigorate my diligence in good works, till at laſt, when Thou ſhalt call me to another ſtate, I ſhall lie down in humble hope, ſupported by thy Holy Spirit, and be received to everlaſting happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

The beginning, &c.

I hope,
To read the Goſpels before Eaſter.
To riſe at eight.
To be temperate in food.

THIS year has paſt with ſo little improvement, that I doubt whether I have not rather impaired than increaſed my learning. To this omiſſion, ſome external

ternal cauſes have contributed. In the winter I was diſtreſſed by a cough; in the ſummer an inflammation fell upon my uſeful eye, from which it has not yet, I fear, recovered; in the autumn I took a journey to the Hebrides, but my mind was not free from perturbation: yet the chief cauſe of my deficiency has been a life immethodical and unſettled, which breaks all purpoſes, confounds and ſuppreſſes memory, and perhaps leaves too much leiſure to imagination. O Lord, have mercy upon me.

January 9, 1774.

1775.

Maundy Thurſday, April 13.

OF the uſe of time, or of my commendation of myſelf, I thought no more; but loſt life in reſtleſs nights and broken days, till this week awakened my attention.

This year has paſſed with very little improvement, perhaps with diminution of knowledge. Much time I have not left; infirmities oppreſs me. But much remains to be done. I hope to riſe at eight, or ſooner in the morning.

Good Friday, April 14, 1775.

BOSWEL came in before I was up. We breakfaſted; I only drank tea, without milk or bread. We went to church, ſaw Dr. Wetherel in the pew, and, by his deſire took him home with us. He did not go very ſoon, and Boſwel ſtaid. Boſwel and I went to church, but came very late. We then took tea, by Boſwel's deſire; and I eat one bun, I think, that I might not ſeem to faſt oſtentatiouſly. Boſwel ſat with me till night; we had ſome ſerious talk. When he went, I gave Francis ſome directions for preparation to communicate. Thus has paſſed, hitherto, this awful day.

10°. 30'. P. M.

WHEN I look back upon reſolutions of improvement and amendment, which have year after year been made and broken, either by negligence, forgetfulneſs, vicious idleneſs, caſual interruption, or morbid infirmity; when I find that ſo much of my life has ſtolen unprofitably away, and that I can deſcry by retroſpection ſcarcely a few ſingle days properly and vigorouſly employed; why do I yet try to reſolve again? I try, becauſe reformation is neceſſary, and deſpair is criminal. I try in humble hope of the help of God.

As

As my life has, from my earlieſt years, been waſted in a morning bed, my purpoſe is from Eaſter day to riſe early, not later than eight.

11°. 15'. P. M. D. j.

Eaſter Eve, April 15, 1775.

I ROSE more early than is common, after a night diſturbed by flatulencies, though I had taken ſo little. I prayed, but my mind was unſettled, and I did not fix upon the book. After the bread and tea I trifled, and about three ordered coffee and buns for my din-

dinner. I find more faintneſs and uneaſineſs in faſting than I did formerly.

While coffee was preparing, Collier came in, a man whom I had not ſeen for more than twenty years, but but whom I conſulted about Macky's books. We talked of old friends and paſt occurrences, and eat and drank together.

I then read a little in the Teſtament, and tried Fidde's Body of Divinity, but did not ſettle.

I then went to Evening Prayer, and was tolerably compoſed. At my return I ſat

ſat a while, then retired, but found reading uneaſy.

11. P. M.

Theſe two days in which I faſted, I have not been ſleepy, though I reſted ill.

EASTER DAY.

April 16, 1775.

ALmighty God, heavenly Father, whoſe mercy is over all thy works, look with pity on my miſeries and ſins. Suffer me to commemorate, in thy preſence, my redemption by thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt. Enable me ſo to repent of my miſpent time, that I may

I may paſs the reſidue of my life in thy fear, and to thy glory. Relieve, O Lord, as ſeemeth beſt unto Thee, the infirmities of my body, and the perturbation of my mind. Fill my thoughts with awful love of thy goodneſs, with juſt fear of thine anger, and with humble confidence in thy mercy. Let me ſtudy thy laws, and labour in the duties which Thou ſhalt ſet before me. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but incite in me ſuch good deſires, as may produce diligent endeavours after thy glory and my own ſalvation; and when, after hopes and fears, and joys and ſorrows, Thou ſhalt call me hence, receive me to eternal happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Collier is dead. April 7, 1776.

Tran-

Tranſcribed from a former book, with a ſlight emendation or two. With that book I parted, perhaps unneceſſarily, by a catch.

Sept. 18, 1775.

O God by whom all things were created and are ſuſtained, who giveſt and takeſt away, in whoſe hands are life and death, accept my imperfect thanks for the length of days which thou haſt vouchſafed to grant me; impreſs upon my mind ſuch repentance of the time miſpent in ſinfulneſs and negligence, that I may obtain forgiveneſs of all my offences; and ſo calm my mind, and ſtrengthen my reſolutions, that I may live the remaining

part

part of my life in thy fear, and with thy favour. Take not thy Holy Spirit from me; but let me ſo love thy laws, and ſo obey them, that I may finally be received to eternal happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

A

Compoſed at Calais, in a ſleepleſs night, and uſed before the Morn at Nôtre Dame. Written at St. Omers.

1776.

Jan. 1.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, who haſt permitted me to ſee the beginning of another year, grant that the time which Thou ſhalt yet afford me, may be ſpent to thy glory, and the ſalvation of my own ſoul. Strengthen all good reſolutions, and take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but have mercy upon me, and ſhed thy bleſſing both on my ſoul and body, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

EASTER DAY.

April 7.

THE time is again at which, ſince the death of my poor dear Tetty, on whom God have mercy, I have annually commemorated the myſtery of Redemption, and annually purpoſed to amend my life. My reigning ſin, to which perhaps many others are appendant, is waſte of time, and general ſluggiſhneſs, to which I was always inclined, and, in part of my life, have been almoſt compelled by morbid melancholy and diſturbance of mind. Melancholy has had in me its paroxiſms and remiſſions, but I have not improved the intervals, nor ſufficiently reſiſted my

my natural inclination, or ſickly habits. I will reſolve, henceforth, to riſe at eight in the morning, ſo far as reſolution is proper, and will pray that God will ſtrengthen me. I have begun this morning.

Though for the paſt week I have had an anxious deſign of communicating to day, I performed no particular act of devotion, till on Friday I went to church. My deſign was to paſs part of the day in exerciſes of piety, but Mr. Boſwel interrupted me; of him, however, I could have rid myſelf, but poor Thrale, orbus et exſpes, came for comfort, and ſat till ſeven, when we all went to church.

In the morning I had at church ſome radiations of comfort.

I faſted, though leſs rigorouſly than at other times. I, by negligence, poured milk into the tea, and, in the afternoon, drank one diſh of coffee with Thrale; yet at night, after a fit of drowſineſs, I felt myſelf very much diſordered by emptineſs, and called for tea, with peeviſh and impatient eagerneſs. My diſtreſs was very great.

Yeſterday, I do not recollect that to go to church came into my thoughts; but I ſat in my chamber, preparing for preparation; interrupted, I know not how. I was near two hours at dinner.

I go now with hope,

To riſe in the morning at eight.

To uſe my remaining time with diligence.

To ſtudy more accurately the Chriſtian Religion.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt preſerved me, by thy tender forbearance, once more to commemorate thy love in the redemption of the world; grant that I may ſo live the reſidue of my days, as to obtain thy mercy when thou ſhalt call me from the preſent ſtate. Illuminate my thoughts with knowledge, and inflame my heart with holy deſires. Grant me to reſolve well, and keep my reſoluti-

ons;

ons; take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but in life and in death have mercy on me, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

Acts of Forgiveneſs.

P. M. In the pew I read my Prayer, and commended my friends, and thoſe that died this year. At the altar I was generally attentive; ſome thoughts of vanity came into my mind while others were communicating; but I found, when I conſidered them, that they did not tend to irreverence of God. At

the altar I renewed my reſolutions. When I received, ſome tender images ſtruck me. I was ſo mollified by the concluding addreſs to our Saviour, that I could not utter it. The communicants were moſtly women. At intervals I read collects, and recollected, as I could, my Prayer. Since my return, I have ſaid it. 2 P. M.

May 21, 1776.

Theſe reſolutions I have not practiſed nor recollected. O God, Grant me to begin now, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

July 25, 1776.

O God, who haſt ordained that whatever is to be deſired, ſhould be ſought by labour, and who, by thy bleſſing, bringeſt honeſt labour to good effect; look with mercy upon my ſtudies and endeavours. Grant me, O Lord, to deſign only what is lawful and right; and afford me calmneſs of mind, and ſteadineſs of purpoſe, that I may ſo do thy will in this ſhort life, as to obtain happineſs in the world to come, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

When I purpoſed to apply vigorouſly to ſtudy, particularly of the Greek and Italian tongues.

1777.

January 1, 2 P. M.

ALmighty Lord, merciful Father, vouchſafe to accept the thanks which I now preſume to offer Thee, for the prolongation of my life. Grant, O Lord, that as my days are multiplied, my good reſolutions may be ſtrengthened, my power of reſiſting temptations encreaſed, and my ſtruggles with ſnares and obſtructions invigorated. Relieve the infirmities both of my mind and body. Grant me ſuch ſtrength as my duties may require, and ſuch diligence as may improve thoſe opportunities of good that ſhall be offered me. Deliver me from the intruſion of evil thoughts. Grant me true repentance of my

my paſt life; and as I draw nearer and nearer to the grave, ſtrengthen my faith, enliven my hope, extend my charity, and purify my deſires; and ſo help me, by thy Holy Spirit, that when it ſhall be thy pleaſure to call me hence, I may be received to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Our Father—

March 28.

THIS day is Good Friday. It is likewiſe the day on which my poor Tetty was taken from me.

My

My thoughts were disturbed in bed. I remembered that it was my wife's dying day, and begged pardon for all our sins, and commended her; but resolved to mix little of my own sorrows or cares with the great solemnity. Having taken only tea without milk, I went to church; had time, before service, to commend my wife, and wished to join quietly in the service, but I did not hear well, and my mind grew unsettled and perplexed. Having rested ill in the night, I slumbered at the sermon, which, I think, I could not, as I sat, perfectly hear.

I re-

I returned home, but could not ſettle my mind. At laſt I read a chapter. Then went down, about ſix or ſeven, and eat two croſs-buns, and drank tea. Faſting for ſome time has been uneaſy, and I have taken but little.

At night I had ſome eaſe. L. D. I had prayed for pardon and peace.

I ſlept in the afternoon.

29, Eaſter Eve.

I ROSE, and again prayed, with reference to my departed wife. I neither read nor went to church, yet can ſcarcely tell how I have been hindered. I treated with bookſellers on a bargain, but the time was not long.

30, Eaſter Day, 1 mâ mane.

THE day is now come again, in which, by a cuſtom which ſince the death of my wife I have by the divine aſſiſtance always obſerved, I am to renew the great covenant with my Maker and my Judge. I humbly hope to perform it better. I hope for more efficacy of reſolution, and more diligence

of

of endeavour. When I ſurvey my paſt life, I diſcover nothing but a barren waſte of time, with ſome diſorders of body, and diſturbances of the mind very near to madneſs, which I hope He that made me, will ſuffer to extenuate many faults, and excuſe many deficiencies. Yet much remains to be repented and reformed. I hope that I refer more to God than in former times, and conſider more what ſubmiſſion is due to his diſpenſations. But I have very little reformed my practical life; and the time in which I can ſtruggle with habits cannot be now expect-

ed

ed to be long. Grant, O God, that I may no longer reſolve in vain, or dream away the life which thy indulgence gives me, in vacancy and uſeleſsleſs.

9nâ mane.

I WENT to bed about two, had a diſturbed night, though not ſo diſtreſsful as at ſome other times.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who ſeeſt all our miſeries, and knoweſt all our neceſſities, look down upon me, and pity me. Defend me from the violent incurſions of evil thoughts, and enable me to form and keep ſuch reſolutions as may conduce to the diſcharge of the duties which

which thy providence ſhall appoint me; and ſo help me, by thy Holy Spirit, that my heart may ſurely there be fixed where true joys are to be found, and that I may ſerve Thee with pure affection and a cheerful mind. Have mercy upon me, O God, have mercy upon me; years and infirmities oppreſs me, terrour and anxiety beſet me. Have mercy upon me, my Creator and my Judge. In all dangers protect me, in all perplexities relieve and free me, and ſo help me by thy Holy Spirit, that I may now ſo commemorate the death of thy Son our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, as that when this ſhort and painful life ſhall have an end, I may, for his ſake, be received to everlaſting happineſs. Amen.

April 6, 1777.

BY one ſtrange hindrance or another, I have been withheld from the continuation of my thoughts to this day, the Sunday following Eaſter day.

On Eaſter day I was at church early, and there prayed over my prayer, and commended Tetty and my other friends. I was for ſome time much diſtreſſed, but at laſt obtained, I hope from the God of Peace, more quiet than I have enjoyed for a long time. I had made no reſolution, but as my heart grew lighter, my hopes revived, and my courage increaſed; and I wrote with my pencil in my Common Prayer Book,

Vita

Vita ordinanda.

Biblia legenda.

Theologiæ opera danda.

Serviendum et lætandum.

I then went to the altar, having, I believe, again read my Prayer. I then went to the table and communicated, praying for ſome time afterwards, but the particular matter of my prayer I do not remember.

I dined, by an appointment, with Mrs. Gardiner, and paſſed the afternoon with ſuch calm gladneſs of mind as it is very long ſince I felt before. I came home, and began to read the Bible. I paſſed the night in ſuch ſweet uninterrupted ſleep, as I have not known ſince I ſlept at Fort Auguſtus.

On

On Monday I dined with Sheward, on Tueſday with Paradiſe. The mornings have been devoured by company, and one intruſion has, through the whole week, ſucceeded to another.

At the beginning of the year I propoſed to myſelf a ſcheme of life, and a plan of ſtudy; but neither life has been rectified, nor ſtudy followed. Days and months paſs in a dream; and I am afraid that my memory grows leſs tenacious, and my obſervation leſs attentive. If I am decaying, it is time to make haſte. My nights are reſtleſs and tedious, and my days drowſy. The flatulence which torments me, has ſometimes ſo obſtructed my breath, that the act of reſpiration

tion became not only voluntary but laborious in a decumbent poſture. By copious bleeding I was relieved, but not cured.

I have this year omitted church on moſt Sundays, intending to ſupply the deficience in the week. So that I owe twelve attendances on worſhip. I will make no more ſuch ſuperſtitious ſtipulations, which entangle the mind with unbidden obligations.

My purpoſe once more, O Thou merciful Creator that governeſt all our hearts and actions, Βιοτὴς οἴηκα Κυβερνῶν, let not my purpoſe be vain. My purpoſe once more is,

To riſe at eight.

To

To keep a journal.

To read the whole Bible, in ſome language, before Eaſter.

To gather the arguments for Chriſtianity.

To worſhip God more frequently in public.

Aſhbourn, Sept. 18, 1777.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt brought me to the beginning of another year, grant me ſo to remember thy gifts, and ſo to acknowledge thy goodneſs, as that every year and day which Thou ſhalt yet grant me, may be employed

ed in the amendment of my life, and in the diligent diſcharge of ſuch duties as thy providence ſhall allot me. Grant me, by thy grace, to know and to do what Thou requireſt. Give me good deſires, and remove thoſe impediments which may hinder them from effect. Forgive me my ſins, negligences, and ignorances; and when at laſt Thou ſhalt call me to another life, receive me to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

1778.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 17.

IT has happened this week, as it never happened in Paſſion Week before, that I have never dined at home, and I have therefore neither practiſed abſtinence nor peculiar devotion.

This morning before I went to bed I enlarged my prayers, by adding ſome collects with reference to the day. I reſted moderately and roſe about nine, which is more early than is uſual. I think I added ſomething to my morning

ing prayers. Boſwel came in to go to church; we had tea, but I did not eat. Talk loſt our time, and we came to church late, at the Second Leſſon. My mind has been for ſome time feeble and impreſſible, and ſome trouble it gave me in the morning; but I went with ſome confidence and calmneſs through the prayers.

In my return from church I was accoſted by Edwards, an old fellow collegian, who had not ſeen me ſince 1729. He knew me, and aſked if I remembered one Edwards; I did not at firſt recollect the name, but gradually, as we walked along recovered it, and told him a converſation that had paſſed at an

an alehouſe between us. My purpoſe is to continue our acquaintance.

We ſat till the time of worſhip in the afternoon, and then came again late, at the Pſalms. Not eaſily, I think, hearing the ſermon, or not being attentive, I fell aſleep. When we came home we had tea, and I eat two buns, being ſomewhat uneaſy with faſting, and not being alone. If I had not been obſerved I ſhould probably have faſted.

EASTER DAY.

April 19, after 12 at night.

O LORD have mercy upon me.

Yeſterday (18) I roſe late, having not ſlept ill. Having promiſed a dedication, I thought it neceſſary to write; but for ſome time neither wrote nor read. Langton came in and talked, After dinner I wrote. At tea Boſwel came in. He ſtaid till near twelve.

I purpoſed to have gone in the evening to church, but miſſed the hour.

Edwards

Edwards obſerved how many we have outlived. I hope, yet hope, that my future life ſhall be better than my paſt.

From the year 1752, the year in which my poor dear Tetty died, upon whoſe ſoul may God have had mercy for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, I have received the ſacrament every year at Eaſter. My purpoſe is to receive it now. O Lord God, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, make it effectual to my ſalvation.

My purpoſes are,

To ſtudy divinity, particularly the Evidences of Chriſtianity.

To read the New Teſtament over in the year, with more uſe than hitherto of commentators.

To

To be diligent in my undertakings.

To ſerve and truſt God, and be chearful.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, ſuffer me once more to commemorate the death of thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt, my Saviour and Redeemer, and make the memorial of his death profitable to my ſalvation, by ſtrengthening my faith in his merits, and quickening my obedience to his laws. Remove from me, O God, all inordinate deſires, all corrupt paſſions, and all vain terrours, and fill me with zeal for thy glory, and with confidence in thy mercy.

Make me to love all men, and enable me to uſe thy gifts, whatever Thou ſhalt beſtow, to the benefit of my fellow-creatures. So lighten the weight of years, and ſo mitigate the afflictions of diſeaſe, that I may continue fit for thy ſervice, and uſeful in my ſtation. And ſo let me paſs through this life, by the guidance of thy Holy Spirit, that at laſt I may enter into eternal joy, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

HAVING gone to bed about two, I roſe about nine, and, having prayed, went to church. I came early, and uſed this prayer. After ſermon I again uſed my prayer; the Collect for the day I repeated ſeveral times, at leaſt the petitions. I recommended my friends. At the altar I prayed earneſtly, and when I came home, prayed for pardon and peace; repeated my own prayer, and added the petitions of the Collect.

O God have mercy upon me, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt Amen.

At my return home, I returned thanks for the opportunity of communion.

I was called down to Mrs. Nollikens. Boſwel came in; then dinner. After dinner, which I believe was late, I read the Firſt Epiſtle to Theſſ.; then went to Evening Prayers; then came to tea, and afterwards tried Voſſius de Baptiſmo. I was ſleepy.

Monday April 20, 1778.

AFTER a good night, as I am forced to reckon, I roſe ſeaſonably, and prayed, uſing the Collect for yeſterday.

In reviewing my time from Eaſter 1777, I found a very melancholy and ſhameful blank. So little has been done, that days and months are without any trace. My health has, indeed been very much interrupted. My nights have been commonly, not only reſtleſs, but painful and fatiguing. My reſpiration was once ſo difficult, that an aſthma was ſuſpected. I could not walk, but with great difficulty, from Snowhill to Greenhill. Some relaxation of my breaſt has been procured,

I think, by opium, which, though it never gives me ſleep, frees my breaſt from ſpaſms.

I have written a little of the Lives of the Poets, I think with all my uſual vigour. I have made ſermons, perhaps as readily as formerly. My memory is leſs faithful in retaining names, and, I am afraid, in retaining occurrences. Of this vacillation and vagrancy of mind, I impute a great part to a fortuitous and unſettled life, and therefore purpoſe to ſpend my time with more method.

This year, the 28th of March paſſed away without memorial. Poor Tetty, whatever were our faults and failings, we loved each other. I did not forget

thee

thee yesterday. Couldest thou have lived!——

I am now, with the help of God, to begin a new life.

1779.

Jan. 1, before 1 in the morning.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, who hast granted to me the beginning of another year, grant that I may employ thy gifts to thy glory, and my own salvation. Excite me to amend my life; give me

good

good reſolutions, and enable me to perform them. As I approach the grave, let my faith be invigorated, my hope exalted, and my charity enlarged. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit; but in the courſe of my life protect me, in the hour of death ſuſtain me, and finally receive me to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 2.

AFTER a night reſtleſs and oppreſſive, I roſe this morning ſomewhat earlier than is uſual; and having taken tea, which was very neceſſary to compoſe the diſ-

order

order in my breaſt, having eaten nothing I went to church with Boſwel. We came late; I was able to attend the Litany with little perturbation. When we came home I began the Firſt to the Theſſ. having prayed by the Collect for the right uſe of the Scriptures. I gave Boſwel Les Penſées de Paſcal, that he might not interrupt me. I did not, I believe, read very diligently; and before I had read far, we went to church again; I was again attentive. At home I read again, then drank tea with a bun and an half, thinking myſelf leſs able to faſt than at former times; and then concluded the Epiſtle. Being much oppreſſed with drowſineſs, I ſlept about an hour by the fire.

11. P. M.

I AM now to review the laſt year, and find little but diſmal vacuity, neither buſineſs nor pleaſure; much intended, and little done. My health is much broken; my nights afford me little reſt. I have tried opium, but its help is counterbalanced with great diſturbance; it prevents the ſpaſms, but it hinders ſleep. O God have mercy on me.

Laſt week I publiſhed the Lives of the Poets, written, I hope, in ſuch a manner, as may tend to the promotion of piety.

In this laſt year I have made little acquiſition; I have ſcarcely read any thing.

I main-

I maintain Mrs. —— and her daughter. Other good of myſelf I know not where to find, except a little charity.

But I am now in my ſeventieth year; what can be done, ought not to be delayed.

EASTER EVE.

April 3, 1779, 11. P. M.

THIS is the time of my annual review, and annual reſolution. The review is comfortleſs little done. Part of the Life of Dryden and the Life of Milton have been written; but my mind has neither been improved nor enlarged.

I have

I have read little, almoſt nothing. And I am not conſcious that I have gained any good, or quitted any evil habits.

Of reſolutions I have made ſo many, with ſo little effect, that I am almoſt weary, but, by the help of God, am not yet hopeleſs. Good reſolutions muſt be made and kept. I am almoſt ſeventy years old, and have no time to loſe. The diſtreſsful reſtleſſneſs of my nights, makes it difficult to ſettle the courſe of my days. Something, however, let me do.

EASTER DAY.

April 4, 1779.

I ROSE about half an hour after nine, tranſcribed the prayer written laſt night; and by neglecting to count time, ſat too long at breakfaſt, ſo that I came to church at the firſt Leſſon. I attended the Litany pretty well; but in the pew could not hear the communion ſervice, and miſſed the prayer for the church Militant. Before I went to the altar, I prayed the occaſional prayer. At the altar I commended my ☉ ☿, and again prayed the prayer; I then prayed the collects, and again my own prayer by memory. I left out a clauſe. I then received, I hope with ear-

earneſtneſs; and while others received ſat down; but thinking that poſture, though uſual, improper, I roſe and ſtood. I prayed again in the pew, but with what prayer I have forgotten.

When I uſed the occaſional prayer at the altar, I added a general purpoſe,

To avoid idleneſs.

I gave two ſhillings to the plate.

Before I went I uſed, I think, my prayer, and endeavoured to calm my mind. After my return I uſed it again, and the collect for the day. Lord have mercy upon me.

I have

I have for ſome nights called Francis to prayers, and laſt night diſcourſed with him on the ſacrament.

EASTER DAY.

April 4, 1779.

Purpoſes,

To riſe at eight, or as ſoon as I can.

To read the Scriptures.

To ſtudy religion.

ALmighty God, by thy merciful continuance of my life, I come once more to commemorate the ſufferings and death of thy ſon Jeſus Chriſt, and to implore that mercy which, for his ſake, thou ſheweſt to ſinners. Forgive me my ſins, O Lord, and enable me to forſake them. Eaſe, if it ſhall pleaſe Thee, the anxieties of my mind, and relieve the infirmities of my body. Let me not be diſturbed by unneceſſary terrours, and let not the weakneſs of age make me unable to amend my life. O Lord, take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but receive my petitions, ſuccour and comfort me, and let me ſo paſs the remainder

der of my days, that when Thou ſhalt call me hence, I may enter into eternal happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1779, H. P. M. 12mâ.

ALmighty God, Creator of all things, in whoſe hands are life and death, glory be to Thee for all thy mercies, and for the prolongation of my life to the common age of man. Pardon me, O Gracious God, all the offences which in the courſe of ſeventy years I have committed againſt thy holy laws, and all negligences of thoſe duties which Thou haſt required. Look with pity upon me, take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but enable me to paſs the

days which Thou ſhalt yet vouchſafe to grant me, in thy fear, and to thy glory; and accept O Lord, the remains of a miſpent life, that when Thou ſhalt call me to another ſtate, I may be received to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Epſom.

My purpoſe is to communicate at leaſt thrice a year.

To ſtudy the Scriptures.

To be diligent.

1780.

January 1. H. 1. A. M.

ALmighty God, my Creator and Preſerver, by whoſe mercy my life has been continued to the beginning of another year, grant me, with increaſe of days, increaſe of holineſs; that as I live longer, I may be better prepared to appear before Thee, when Thou ſhalt call me from my preſent ſtate.

Make me, O Lord, truly thankful for the mercy which Thou haſt vouchſafed to ſhew me through my whole life; make me thankful for the health which Thou haſt reſtored in the laſt year, and let the re-

remains of my ſtrength and life be employed to thy glory and my own ſalvation.

Take not, O Lord, thy Holy Spirit from me; enable me to avoid or overcome all that may hinder my advancement in godlineſs; let me be no longer idle, no longer ſinful; but give me rectitude of thought and conſtancy of action, and bring me at laſt to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Sunday, June 18.

IN the morning of this day laſt year, I perceived the remiſſion of thoſe convulſions in my breaſt, which had diſtreſſed

treſſed me for more than twenty years. I returned thanks at church for the mercy granted me, which has now continued a year.

THANKSGIVING.

ALmighty God, our Creator, and Preſerver, from whom proceedeth all good, enable me to receive, with humble acknowledgment of thy unbounded benignity, and with due conſcioufneſs of my own unworthineſs, that recovery and continuance of health which Thou had granted me, and vouchſafe to accept the thanks which I now offer. Glory be to Thee, O Lord, for this and all thy mercies. Grant,

I be-

I beſeech Thee, that the health and life which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, may conduce to my eternal happineſs. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit; but ſo help and bleſs me, that when Thou ſhalt call me hence, I may obtain pardon and ſalvation, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1780.

I AM now beginning the ſeventy-ſecond year of my life, with more ſtrength of body and greater vigour of mind than I think is common at that age. But though the convulſions in my breaſt are relieved, my ſleep is ſeldom long. My

My nights are wakeful, and therefore I am ſometimes ſleepy in the day. I have been attentive to my diet, and have diminiſhed the bulk of my body. I have not at all ſtudied, nor written diligently. I have Swift and Pope yet to write; Swift is juſt begun.

I have forgotten or neglected my reſolutions or purpoſes, which I now humbly and timorouſly renew. Surely I ſhall not ſpend my whole life with my own total diſapprobation. Perhaps God may grant me now to begin a wiſer and a better life.

ALmighty God, my Creator and Preſerver, who haſt permitted me to begin another year, look with mercy upon my wretchedneſs and frailty. Rectify my thoughts, relieve my perplexities, ſtrengthen my purpoſes, and reform my doings. Let increaſe of years bring increaſe of faith, hope, and charity. Grant me diligence in whatever work thy providence ſhall appoint me. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but let me paſs the remainder of the days which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, in thy fear and to thy glory; and when it ſhall be thy good pleaſure to call me hence, grant me, O Lord, forgiveneſs of my ſins, and receive me to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

1781.

January 2.

I WAS yeſterday hindered by my old diſeaſe of mind, and therefore begin to-day.

January 1.

HAVING ſat in my chamber till the year began, I uſed my accommodation of the Morning Prayer *to the beginning of this year*, and ſlept remarkably well, though I had ſupped liberally. In the morning I went to church. Then I wrote letters for Mrs. Deſmoulins; then went to Streatham, and had many ſtops. At night I took wine, and did not ſleep well.

January 2, 1781.

I ROSE according to my reſolution, and am now to begin another year. I hope with amendment of life. I will not deſpair. Help me, help me, O my God. My hope is,

To riſe at eight or ſooner.

To read the Bible through this year, in ſome language.

To keep a journal.

To ſtudy religion.

To avoid idleneſs.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, who haſt granted me ſuch continuance of life, that I now ſee the beginning of another year, look with mercy upon me; as Thou granteſt increaſe of years, grant increaſe of grace. Let me live to repent what I have done amiſs, and by thy help ſo to regulate my future life, that I may obtain mercy when I appear before Thee, through the merits of Jeſus Chriſt. Enable me, O Lord, to do my duty with a quiet mind; and take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but protect and bleſs me, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt, Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 13, 1781.

I FORGOT my prayer and reſolutions, till two days ago I found this paper.

Sometime in March I finiſhed the Lives of the Poets, which I wrote in my uſual way, dilatorily and haſtily, unwilling to work, and working with vigour and haſte.

On

On Wedneſday 11, was buried my dear friend Thrale, who died on Wedneſday 4; and with him were buried many of my hopes and pleaſures. About five, I think, on Wedneſday morning he expired; I felt almoſt the laſt flutter of his pulſe, and looked for the laſt time upon the face that for fifteen years had never been turned upon me but with reſpect or benignity. Farewel. May God, that delighteth in mercy, have had mercy upon thee.

I had conſtantly prayed for him ſome time before his death.

The deceaſe of him, from whoſe friendſhip I had obtained many opportunities of amuſement, and to whom I turned my thoughts as to a refuge from misfortunes, has left me heavy. But my buſineſs is with myſelf.

September 18.

My firſt knowledge of Thrale was in 1765. I enjoyed his favour for almoſt a fourth part of my life.

EASTER EVE.

April 14, 1781.

ON Good Friday I took, in the afternoon, ſome coffee and buttered cake; and to-day, I had a little bread at breakfaſt, and potatoes and apples in the afternoon, the tea with a little toaſt; but I find myſelf feeble and unſuſtained, and ſuſpect that I cannot bear to faſt ſo long as formerly.

This

This day I read ſome of Clarke's Sermons. I hope that ſince my laſt communion I have advanced, by pious reflections, in my ſubmiſſion to God, and my benevolence to man; but I have corrected no external habits, nor have kept any of the reſolutions made in the beginning of the year; yet I hope ſtill to be reformed, and not to loſe my whole life in idle purpoſes. Many years are already gone, irrevocably paſt, in uſeleſs miſery; that what remains may be ſpent better, grant, O God.

By

By this awful feſtival is particularly recommended newneſs of life; and a new life I will now endeavour to begin, by more diligent application to uſeful employment, and more frequent attendance on public worſhip.

I again with hope of help from the God of mercy, reſolve,

To avoid idleneſs.

To read the Bible.

To ſtudy religion.

ALmighty God, merciful Father, by whoſe protection I have been preſerved, and by whoſe clemency I have been ſpared, grant that the life which Thou haſt ſo long continued may be no longer waſted in idleneſs, or corrupted by wickedneſs. Let my future purpoſes be good, and let not my good purpoſes be vain. Free me, O Lord, from vain terrours, and ſtrengthen me in diligent obedience to thy laws. Take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but enable me ſo to commemorate the death of my Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, that I may be made partaker of his merits; and may finally, for his ſake, obtain everlaſting happineſs. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY.

1781.

I ROSE after eight, and breakfasted; then went early to church, and before service read the prayer for the Church Militant. I commended my ● * friends, as I have formerly done. I was one of the last that communicated, When I came home I was hindered by visitants, but found time to pray before dinner. God, send thy blessing upon me.

● Sic MS.

Monday April 16.

AT night I had ſome mental vellications, or revulſions. I prayed in my chamber with Frank, and read the firſt Sunday in the Duty of Man, in which I had, till then, only looked by compulſion or by chance.

This day I repeated my prayer, and hope to be heard.

I have, I thank God, received the Sacrament every year at Eaſter ſince the death of my poor dear Tetty. I once felt ſome temptation to omit it, but I was preſerved from compliance. This was the thirtieth Eaſter.

June 22, 1781.

ALmighty God, who art the giver of all good, enable me to remember with due thankfulneſs, the comforts and advantages which I have enjoyed by the friendſhip of Henry Thrale, for whom, ſo far as is lawful, I humbly implore thy mercy in his preſent ſtate. O Lord, ſince Thou haſt been pleaſed to call him from this world, look with mercy on thoſe whom he has left; continue to ſuccour me by ſuch means as are beſt for me, and repay to his relations the kindneſs which I have received from him; protect them in this world from temptations and calamities, and grant them happineſs in the world to come, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

September 2, 1781.

WHEN Thrale's health was broken, for many months I think before his death, which happened April 4, I conſtantly mentioned him in my prayers; and after his death, have made particular ſupplication for his ſurviving family to this day.

September 18.

THIS is my ſeventy-third birth-day, an awful day. I ſaid a preparatory prayer laſt night, and waking early, made uſe, in the dark, as I ſat up in bed, of the prayer [beginning of this year]. I roſe, breakfaſted, and gave thanks at church for my creation, preſervation, and redemption. As I came home, I thought I had never begun any period of life ſo placidly. I read the Second Epiſtle to the Theſſalonians, and looked into Hammond's Notes. I have always been accuſtomed to let this day paſs unnoticed, but it came this time into my mind that ſome little feſtivity was not

not improper. I had a dinner, and invited Allen and Levet.

What has paſſed in my thoughts on this anniverſary, is in ſtitched book K*.

My purpoſes are the ſame as on the firſt day of this year, to which I add hope of

More frequent attendance on public worſhip.

Participation of the Sacrament at leaſt three times a year.

* [This Book is not in the Editor's poſſeſſion.]

Sept. 18. Veſp. 10°, 40′, circ.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who haſt added another year to my life, and yet permitteſt me to call upon Thee, grant that the remaining days which Thou ſhalt yet allow me, may be paſt in thy fear and to thy glory. Grant me good reſolutions and ſteady perſeverance. Relieve the diſeaſes of my body, and compoſe the diſquiet of my mind. Let me at laſt repent and amend my life; and, O Lord, take not from me thy Holy Spirit, but aſſiſt my amendment, and accept my repentance, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

Sunday, October 14, 1781.
(properly Monday morning.)

I AM this day about to go by Oxford and Birmingham to Lichfield and Aſhbourne. The motives of my journey I hardly know. I omitted it laſt year, and am not willing to miſs it again. Mrs. Aſton will be glad, I think, to ſee me. We are both old, and if I put off my viſit, I may ſee her no more; perhaps ſhe wiſhes for another interview. She is a very good woman.

Hector is likewiſe an old friend, the only companion of my childhood that paſſed through the ſchool with me. We have always loved one another. Perhaps we may be made better by ſome ſerious

ſerious converſation, of which, however I have no diſtinct hope.

At Lichfield, my native place, I hope to ſhew a good example, by frequent attendance on public worſhip.

At Aſhbourne, I hope to talk ſeriouſly with ——.

1782.

March 18.

HAVING been, from the middle of January, diſtreſſed by a cold which made my reſpiration very laborious, and from which I was but little relieved by being blooded three times; having tried to eaſe the oppreſſion of my breaſt by frequent opiates, which kept me waking in the night and drowſy the next day, and ſubjected me to the tyranny of vain imaginations; having to all this added frequent catharticks, ſometimes with mercury, I at laſt perſuaded

ſuaded Dr. Laurence, on Thurſday March 14, to let me bleed more copiouſly. Sixteen ounces were taken away, and from that time my breath has been free, and my breaſt eaſy. On that day I took little food, and no fleſh. On Thurſday night I ſlept with great tranquillity. On the next night (15) I took diacodium, and had a moſt reſtleſs night. Of the next day I remember nothing, but that I roſe in the afternoon, and ſaw Mrs. Lennox and Sheward.

Sunday

Sunday 17. I lay late and had only palfrey to dinner. I read part of Waller's Directory, a pious rational book; but in any except a very regular life difficult to practice.

It occurred to me, that though my time might paſs unemployed, no more ſhould paſs uncounted, and this has been written to-day, in conſequence of that thought. I read a Greek chapter, prayed with Francis, which I now do commonly, and explained to him the Lord's Prayer, in which I find connection not obſerved, I think, by the expoſitors. I made punch for myſelf and my ſervants, by which,

in

in the night, I thought both my breaſt and imagination diſordered.

March 18. I roſe late, looked a little into books. Saw Miſs Reynolds and Miſs Thrale, and Nicolaida; afterwards Dr. Hunter came for his catalogue. I then dined on tea, &c.; then read over part of Dr. Laurence's book De Temperamentis, which ſeems to have been written with a troubled mind.

My mind has been for ſome time much diſturbed. The peace of God be with me.

I hope to-morrow to finiſh Laurence, and to write to Mrs. Aſton, and to Lucy.

19. I

19. I roſe late. I was viſited by Mrs. Thrale, Mr. Cotton, and Mr. Crofts. I took Laurence's paper in hand, but was chill; having faſted yeſterday, I was hungry, and dined freely, then ſlept a little, and drank tea; then took candles and wrote to Aſton and Lucy, then went on with Laurence, of which little remains. I prayed with Francis.

Mens ſedatior, laus Deo.

To-morrow Shaw comes. I think to finiſh Laurence, and write to Langton.

Poor Laurence has almoſt loſt the ſenſe of hearing; and I have loſt the converſation of a learned, intelligent, and communicative

municative companion, and a friend whom long familiarity has much endeared. Laurence is one of the beſt men whom I have known.

Noſtrum omnium miſerere Deus.

20. Shaw came; I finiſhed reading Laurence. I dined liberally. Wrote a long letter to Langton, and deſigned to read, but was hindered by Strahan. The miniſtry is diſſolved. I prayed with Francis, and gave thanks.

To-morrow—To Mrs. Thrale—To write to Hector—To Dr. Taylor.

21. I went to Mrs. Thrale. Mr. Cox and Paradiſe met me at the door, and went with me in the coach. Paradiſe's Loſs. In the evening wrote to Hector.

At night there were eleven viſitants. Converſation with Mr. Cox. When I waked I ſaw the penthouſes covered with ſnow.

22. I ſpent the time idly. Mens turbata. In the afternoon it ſnowed. At night I wrote to Taylor about the pot, and to Hamilton about the Fœdera.

23. I came home, and found that Deſmoulins had, while I was away, been in bed. Letters from Langton and Boſwel. I promiſed L—— ſix guineas.

24. Sunday. I roſe not early. Viſitors Allen, Davis, Windham, Dr. Horſley. Dinner at Strahan's. Came home and chatted

chatted with Williams, and read Romans ix. in Greek.

To-morrow begin again to read the Bible; put rooms in order; copy L—'s letter. At night I read 11 p. and ſomething more, of the Bible, in fifty-five minutes.

26. Tu. I copied L——'s letter. Then wrote to Mrs. Thrale. Coxe viſited me. I ſent home Dr. Laurence's papers, with notes. I gave D—— a guinea, and found her a gown.

27. W.—At Harley-ſtreet. Bad nights —In the evening Dr. Bromfield and his family—Merlin's ſteelyard given me.

Th. 28. I came home. Sold Rymer for Davies; wrote to Boſwel. Viſitors Dr. Percy, Mr. Crofts. I have, in ten days, written to Aſton, Lucy, Hector, Langton, Boſwel; perhaps to all by whom my letters are deſired.

The weather which now begins to be warm, gives me great help. I have hardly been at church this year; certainly not ſince the 15th of January. My cough and difficulty of breath would not permit it.

This is the day on which, in 1752, dear Tetty died. I have now uttered a prayer of repentance and contrition; perhaps Tetty knows that I prayed for her. Perhaps Tetty is now praying for

for me. God help me. Thou, God, art merciful, hear my prayers, and enable me to truſt in Thee.

We were married almoſt ſeventeen years, and have now been parted thirty.

I then read 11 p. from Ex. 36. to Lev. 7. I prayed with Fr. and uſed the prayer for Good Friday.

29. Good Friday. After a night of great diſturbance and ſolicitude, ſuch as I do not remember, I roſe, drank tea, but without eating, and went to church. I was very compoſed, and coming home, read Hammond on one of the Pſalms for the day. I then read Leviticus. Scott came in. A kind letter from Gaſtrel. I read on, then went

to evening prayers, and afterwards drank tea, with buns; then read till I finiſhed Leviticus, 24 pages et ſup.

To write to Gaſtrel, to-morrow.

To look again into Hammond.

30. Sat. Viſitors Paradiſe, and I think Horſley. Read 11 pages of the Bible. I was faint; dined on herrings and potatoes. At prayers, I think, in the evening. I wrote to Gaſtrel, and received a kind letter from Hector. At night Lowe. Pr. with Francis.

31. Eaſter Day. Read 15 pages of the Bible. Cætera alibi.

At the Table.

ALmighty God by whoſe mercy I am now permitted to commemorate my Redemption by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; grant that this awful remembrance may ſtrengthen my faith, enliven my hope, and encreaſe my charity; that I may truſt in Thee with my whole heart, and do good according to my power. Grant me the help of thy Holy Spirit, that I may do thy will with diligence, and ſuffer it with humble patience; ſo that when Thou ſhalt call me to judgment, I may obtain forgiveneſs and acceptance for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

At Departure, or at Home.

GRant, I beſeech Thee, merciful Lord, that the deſigns of a new and better life, which by thy grace I have now formed, may not paſs away without effect. Incite and enable me, by thy Holy Spirit, to improve the time which Thou ſhalt grant me; to avoid all evil thoughts, words and actions; and to do all the duties which Thou ſhalt ſet before me. Hear my prayer, O Lord, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

Theſe Prayers I wrote for Mrs. Lucy Porter*, in the latter end of the year

* [Daughter in law to Dr. Johnſon, and now living at Lichfield.]

1782,

1782, and tranſcribed them October 9, 1784.

On leaving Mr. Thrale's Family.

October 6, 1782.

ALmighty God, Father of all mercy, help me, by thy grace, that I may with humble and ſincere thankfulneſs remember the comforts and conveniencies which I have enjoyed at this place, and that I may reſign them with holy ſubmiſſion, equally truſting in thy protection when Thou giveſt and when Thou takeſt away. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, have mercy upon me,

To thy fatherly protection, O Lord, I commend this family. Bleſs, guide, and defend them, that they may ſo paſs thro' this world as finally to enjoy in thy preſence everlaſting happineſs, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

O Lord, ſo far as, &c.—Thrale.

October 7.

I was called early. I packed up my bundles, and uſed the foregoing Prayer, with my morning devotions ſomewhat, I think, enlarged. Being earlier than the family, I read St. Paul's farewel in the Acts, and then read fortuitouſly in the Goſpels, which was my parting uſe of the library.

1783.

September 6.

I had juſt heard of Williams's death.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who art the Lord of life and death, who giveſt and who takeſt away, teach me to adore thy providence, whatever Thou ſhalt allot me; make me to remember, with due thankfulneſs, the comforts which I have received from my friendſhip with Anna § Williams. Look upon her, O Lord, with mercy, and prepare me by

§ This Lady, who was afflicted with blindneſs, lived many years with Dr. Johnſon, and died in his houſe. She wrote ſeveral Poems, which were publiſhed in one volume 4to, 1766.

thy

thy grace, to die with hope, and to paſs by death to eternal happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

1784.

EASTER DAY.

April 11.

ALmighty God, my Creator and my Judge, who giveſt life and takeſt it away, enable me to return ſincere and humble thanks for my late deliverance from imminent death; ſo govern my future life by thy Holy Spirit, that every day which Thou ſhalt permit to paſs over me, may be

be ſpent in thy ſervice, and leave me leſs tainted with wickedneſs, and more ſubmiſſive to thy will.

Enable me, O Lord, to glorify Thee for that knowledge of my corruption, and that ſenſe of thy wrath, which my diſeaſe and weakneſs and danger awakened in my mind. Give me ſuch ſorrow as may purify my heart, ſuch indignation as may quench all confidence in myſelf, and ſuch repentance as may, by the interceſſion of my Redeemer, obtain pardon. Let the commemoration of the ſufferings and death of thy Son, which I am now, by thy favour, once more permitted to make; fill me with faith, hope, and charity. Let my purpoſes be good, and my reſolutions unſhaken;

unſhaken; and let me not be hindered or diſtracted by vain and uſeleſs fears, but through the time which yet remains, guide me by thy Holy Spirit, and finally receive me to everlaſting life, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Againſt inquiſitive and perplexing Thoughts.

Auguſt 12, 1784.

O Lord, my Maker and Protector, who haſt graciouſly ſent me into this world to work out my ſalvation, enable me to drive from me all ſuch unquiet and perplexing thoughts as may miſlead or hinder me in the practice of thoſe duties which Thou haſt required. When I behold the works

works of thy hands and conſider the courſe of thy providence, give me grace always to remember that thy thoughts are not my thoughts, nor thy ways my ways. And while it ſhall pleaſe thee to continue me in this world, where much is to be done, and little to be known, teach me, by thy Holy Spirit, to withdraw my mind from unprofitable and dangerous enquiries, from difficulties vainly curious, and doubts impoſſible to be ſolved. Let me rejoice in the light which Thou haſt imparted, let me ſerve Thee with active zeal and humble confidence, and wait with patient expectation for the time in which the ſoul which Thou receiveſt ſhall be ſatisfied with knowledge. Grant this, O Lord, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

Aſhbourn, Auguſt 28, 1784.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, who afflicteſt not willingly the children of men, and by whoſe holy will, now languiſhes in ſickneſs and pain, make, I beſeech Thee, this puniſhment effectual to thoſe gracious purpoſes for which Thou ſendeſt it; let it, if I may preſume to aſk, end not in death, but in repentance; let him live to promote thy kingdom on earth, by the uſeful example of a better life; but if thy will be to call him hence, let his thoughts be ſo purified by his ſufferings, that he may be admitted to eternal happineſs. And, O Lord, by praying for him, let me be admoniſhed to conſider my own ſins and my own danger, to remember

ber the ſhortneſs of life, and to uſe the time which thy mercy grants me to thy glory and my own ſalvation, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

[The following Prayer was compoſed and uſed by Doctor Johnſon previous to his receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, on Sunday December 5, 1784.]

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, I am now as to human eyes it ſeems, about to commemorate, for the † laſt time, the death of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt our Saviour and Redeemer. Grant, O Lord,

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† He died the 13th. following.

Lord, that my whole hope and confidence may be in his merits, and thy mercy; enforce and accept my imperfect repentance; make this commemoration available to the confirmation of my faith, the eſtabliſhment of my hope, and the enlargement of my charity; and make the death of thy Son Jeſus Chriſt effectual to my redemption. Have mercy upon me, and pardon the multitude of my offences, Bleſs my friends; have mercy upon all men. Support me by thy Holy Spirit, in the days of weakneſs, and at the hour of death; and receive me, at my death, to everlaſting happineſs, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

[The following Meditations and Prayers have no dates in the MS.]

I DID not, this week, labour my preparation ſo much as I have ſometimes done. My mind was not very quiet; and an anxious preparation makes the duty of the day formidable and burthenſome. Different methods ſuit different ſtates of mind, body, and affairs. I roſe this day, and prayed, then went to tea, and afterwards compoſed the Prayer, which I formed with great fluency. I went to church; came in at the Pſalms; could not hear the reader in the leſſons, but attended the prayers with tranquillity.

To read the New Teſtament once a year in Greek.

Receiving the Sacrament.

I profeſs my faith in Jeſus.

I declare my reſolution to obey him:

I implore, in the higheſt act of worſhip, grace to keep theſe reſolutions.

I hope to riſe to a new life this day.

On the 17th, Mr. Chamier took me away with him from Streatham. I left the ſervants a guinea for my health, and was content enough to eſcape into a houſe where my birth day not being known, could not be mentioned. I ſat up till midnight was paſt, and the day of a new year, a very awful day, began. I prayed to God, who had [ſafely brought me to the beginning of another year], but could not perfectly recollect the prayer, and ſupplied it. Such deſertions of memory I have always had.

When I roſe on the 18th, I think I prayed again, then walked with my friend into his grounds. When I came back, after

after ſome time paſſed in the library, finding myſelf oppreſſed by ſleepineſs I retired to my chamber, where, by lying down, and a ſhort, imperfect ſlumber, I was refreſhed, and prayed as the night before.

I then dined, and trifled in the parlour and library, and was freed from a ſcruple about Horace. At laſt I went to bed, having firſt compoſed a prayer.

19. Sunday. I went to church, and attended the ſervice. I found at church a time to uſe my prayer, O Lord have mercy—

July 30.

ALmighty God, creator and governor of the world, who ſendeſt ſickneſs and reſtoreſt health, enable me to conſider, with a juſt ſenſe of thy mercy, the deliverance which Thou haſt lately granted me, and aſſiſt by thy bleſſing, as is beſt for me, the means which I ſhall uſe for the cure of the diſeaſe with which I am now afflicted. Encreaſe my patience, teach me ſubmiſſion to thy will, and ſo rule my thoughts and direct my actions, that I may be finally received to everlaſting happineſs, through Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

On the Study of Religion.

ALmighty God, our heavenly Father, without whoſe help labour is uſeleſs, without whoſe light ſearch is vain, invigorate my ſtudies, and direct my enquiries, that I may, by due diligence and right diſcernment, eſtabliſh myſelf and others in thy Holy Faith. Take not, O Lord, thy Holy Spirit from me; let not evil thoughts have dominion in my mind. Let me not linger in ignorance, but enlighten and ſupport me, for the ſake of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen.

O Lord God, in whoſe hand are the wills and affections of men, kindle in my mind holy deſires, and repreſs ſinful and corrupt imaginations; enable me to love thy commandments, and to deſire thy promiſes; let me, by thy protection and influence, ſo paſs through things temporal, as finally not to loſe the things eternal; and among the hopes and fears, the pleaſures and ſorrows, the dangers and deliverances, and all the changes of this life, let my heart be ſurely fixed, by the help of thy Holy Spirit, on the everlaſting fruition of thy preſence, where true joys are to be found. Grant, O Lord,

theſe petitions. Forgive, O merciful Lord, whatever I have done contrary to thy laws. Give me ſuch a ſenſe of my wickedneſs as may produce true contrition and effectual repentance, ſo that when I ſhall be called into another ſtate, I may be received among the ſinners to whom ſorrow and reformation have obtained pardon, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

ALmighty and moſt merciful Father, whoſe clemency I now preſume to implore, after a long life of careleſſneſs and wickedneſs, have mercy upon me. I have committed many treſpaſſes; I have neglected many duties. I have done what Thou haſt forbidden, and left undone what Thou haſt commanded. Forgive, merciful Lord, my ſins, negligences, and ignorances, and enable me, by thy Holy Spirit, to amend my life according to thy Holy Word, for Jeſus Chriſt's ſake. Amen.

O Merciful God, full of compaſſion, long-ſuffering, and of great pity, who ſpareſt when we deſerve puniſhment, and in thy wrath thinkeſt upon mercy; make me earneſtly to repent, and heartily to be ſorry for all my miſdoings; make the remembrance ſo burthenſome and painful, that I may flee to Thee with a troubled ſpirit and a contrite heart; and, O merciful Lord, viſit, comfort, and relieve me; caſt me not out from thy preſence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me, but excite in me true repentance; give me in this world knowledge of thy truth, and confidence in thy mercy, and in the world to come life everlaſting, for the ſake of our Lord and Saviour, thy Son Jeſus Chriſt. Amen.

EJACULATION

Imploring Diligence.

O God, make me to remember that *the night cometh when no man can work.*

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM
17 53
SEP